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# Sierra Leone

## 1956

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# SIERRA LEONE

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Report for the year  
1956

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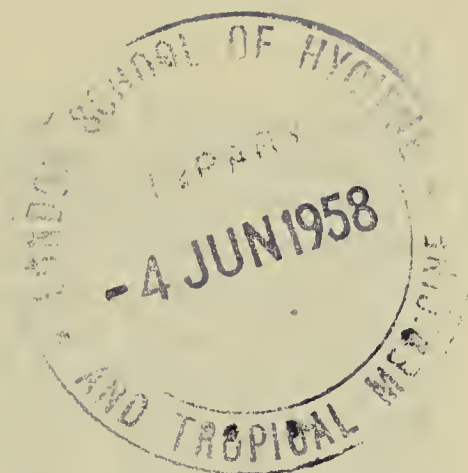
*Map at end*

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## PART I

### General Review



THE outbreak of violence which began in the Protectorate of Sierra Leone in November, 1955, ended in March, 1956, when the administration and police succeeded in restoring public order. The Commission of Enquiry, headed by Sir Herbert Cox, Q.C., which was appointed by the Governor, found that the disturbances were mainly caused by the maladministration and dishonesty of local government bodies, and recommended, *inter alia*, that there should be inquiries into the misdeeds of Chiefs and that Chieftdom administrations should be overhauled with vigour. With relatively few minor modifications the Government accepted the recommendations of the Commission, and three Commissioners were appointed to inquire into the conduct of a number of Paramount Chiefs and lesser chiefs. The Commissioners' reports were expected to be available in January, 1957. The Government has also taken steps towards overhauling the whole system of local government finance and an expert was to be appointed to carry out the necessary survey.

Reference was made in the 1955 Report to the fact that disturbances in the Protectorate were a greater source of disappointment to the Sierra Leone Government because one major source of possible discontent had been removed by throwing open to individual Sierra Leoneans all diamondiferous ground except for 450 square miles reserved for the Sierra Leone Selection Trust, which had previously enjoyed a monopoly of diamond mining. This action, though fundamentally beneficial, brought other problems in its train, the greatest of which was an influx of large numbers of "foreigners", largely from French Guinea but including representatives of tribes from virtually every part of West Africa. Living by the thousand in villages which had previously only housed a few hundred people the new arrivals forced up the cost of living in the diamondiferous areas to fantastic heights, constituted by their general lawlessness and lack of regard for local institutions a grave menace to law and order, and were an even greater danger to the territory's well-being because of the diseases which they brought with them and which, especially in the case of smallpox, rapidly reached epidemic scale. The Government faced this problem squarely and decided that there was no alternative but to remove the foreigners as rapidly as possible. A special operation, "Parasite", was devised for the purpose and began when the new Governor, who had only arrived in the territory on the 1st of September, visited the area on the 31st of October and personally announced that all



foreigners must leave within three weeks, that every effort would be made to assist those willing to go by the provision of free shelter, transport and medical facilities, and that those refusing to leave would be made to do so. The operation met with resounding success, which may be measured by the fact that on not a single occasion during the mass exodus that followed had force to be used ; and despite the administrative difficulties involved in caring for such large numbers, it is estimated that 45,000 left the territory within the stated time. While the further major problem of diamond smuggling had not yet been disposed of, there could be little doubt that the success of this operation would be of far-reaching benefit to the country as a whole, and had done much to restore public goodwill and confidence.

The disturbances did not halt political progress in the territory, in as much as preparations were virtually completed by the end of the year for the introduction of the next stage in the progress of Sierra Leone towards self-government. The appropriate Order in Council, which was made on the 29th November, 1956, provides for the replacement of the old 30-member Legislative Council with a larger House of Representatives consisting of a Speaker, four *ex officio* members, 51 elected members and two nominated members, the last to have no voting powers. Of the 51 elected members, 14 will represent Freetown and the Colony area, 25 will represent electoral districts in the Protectorate and the remaining 12 will be Paramount Chiefs elected by the 12 District Councils in the Protectorate. The relevant Royal Instructions, dated the 18th of December, 1956, provide Sierra Leone for the first time with an Executive Council consisting largely of Ministers holding portfolios, all of whom will have been directly elected by the people. The electoral franchise has been extended to include virtually all adult males, and all adult female taxpayers or property owners. The general election, Sierra Leone's first, was to be held early in 1957.

Nor did the disturbances affect the rapid increase in the prosperity of the ordinary citizen, which is reflected in the great increase in the importation of consumer goods, rising prices, and the shortage of labour.

The very small number of unemployed was even further reduced during the course of the year, and there can be little doubt that as a result of the diversion of labour to the diamond fields, there is a shortage of labour in most other industries, especially in agriculture.

The territory's prosperity is reflected in the increase over 1955 of £2 million in both revenue and expenditure, and the rise of £6 million in imports and £3 million in exports. While this is largely due to revenue from diamond mining, contributory factors have been the improvement in internal communications (nine of the ten projected major road bridges were completed before the end of the year), the increase in the tonnage handled by the port (partly but not entirely a consequence of the Suez crisis) and the rapid development of coffee as an export crop.

Equally worthy of record are the decision to rebuild Fourah Bay College on its present site and the considerable increase in co-operative effort in agriculture. The College, which is of university college status, is an institution which in the past has enjoyed considerable prestige throughout West Africa, but has lately been much handicapped by inferior accommodation and by an almost total lack of laboratories and sports facilities. The increased demand for Sierra Leoneans in managerial posts in commerce, in the professions, and in the higher grades of the civil service has made it essential that first-class training in both arts and sciences should be available in Sierra Leone itself, and the rebuilt college will make this possible.

Considerable progress was made during the year towards solving the two problems inseparable from small scale peasant agriculture, the provision of capital for mechanisation and the development of satisfactory large-scale marketing for produce. In both cases this has been done by means of co-operatives ; in the former a start has been made with cultivation by co-operatively owned machinery, and in the latter by developing co-operative marketing of rice, coffee, cocoa, piassava and fish.

Mention should also be made of the development of a valuable minor industry by the operation from Freetown of four privately owned fishing trawlers. These vessels have already done much towards meeting the demand for fish in Freetown and it is hoped by means of refrigerated vans and fish curing to undertake future distribution of part of their catches to the Protectorate.

Sir Robert de Zouche Hall resigned on grounds of ill-health and was succeeded as Governor by Mr. M. H. Dorman, who assumed duty on the 1st of September.

Distinguished visitors to Sierra Leone during the year included the Right Honourable John Hare, Minister of State for the Colonies, Lieut. General C. D. Packard, the newly appointed Military Adviser to the West African Governments, and Mr. Philip Oppenheimer. Considerable interest was aroused by the brief visit on the 4th of September of the Royal Yacht *Britannia*, under the command of Vice Admiral Sir E. M. Connolly Abel Smith, but perhaps even more by the flying display of a squadron of Canberra jet bombers under the command of Air Vice Marshal J. R. Whitley, which visited Freetown during February.

#### ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

In pre-war years Sierra Leone's economy depended, for the most part, on agricultural production. The post-war pattern, however, is steadily changing and mineral production is assuming pride of place. How long this trend will continue it is not easy to forecast, but the value of minerals exported increasingly outstrips that of agricultural exports. In 1955 the excess was approximately £760,000 ; in 1956 it rose to some £3 million and nearly £8 million worth of minerals were exported in 1956 as against £4½ million worth of agricultural products.



Palm kernels were again the leading agricultural export. They accounted for about one fifth of the total domestic exports, valued at approximately £12 million. The quantity and value exported in 1955 was maintained. There was, however, a drop in other palm products, and the territory was still unable to produce an export surplus of palm oil and groundnuts. There were also some reductions in the quantity of other products exported, notably ginger, kolanuts, benniseed and bananas. Coffee, however, proved to be an exception, the tonnage exported increasing from 2,000 in 1955 to 3,000 and in value from nearly £474,000 to £661,000.

The production of rice, the staple food of the country, whilst increasing, still fell short of the country's needs, and the importation of 35,000 tons was necessary during the year. The increase in the purchasing power of the country, due mainly to the diamond industry, raised the level of consumption considerably.

In order to counter the rise in the prices of staple foodstuffs it was found necessary to import not only rice but palm oil as well. The export of these commodities was prohibited.

There were no developments in the processing of primary products. The oil mills operated by the Sierra Leone Produce Marketing Board worked far below capacity and in some areas remained closed throughout the season due to inadequate supplies of palm fruit. The plant for the production of groundnut oil and cake also was idle throughout the year, with the exception of a few experiments carried out in the expression of oil from palm kernels.

#### DEVELOPMENT

The trunk road construction programme continued, by building a further eight miles of the Kambia to Kamakwie road and completing the Kwelu to Mamaligi Road. The tarring of the Waterloo—Occra Hills road was completed to the trunk road junction at Mile 47 $\frac{1}{4}$ , and work on the Bandajuma—Potoru road was continued under the supervision of the District Council Works Officer.

Nine of the major bridges which are being constructed to obviate the use of ferries were built by the year's end and approximately £115,000 of construction work was executed on new hospitals and health centres. A further £25,000 of work on the Freetown Water Supply Scheme, which is being undertaken by contract, was carried out.

Work on the extension and strengthening of the runway at Lungi airport continued.

As in previous years the limitations of the territory's building industry adversely affected the school building programme. It is believed, however, that the situation will gradually improve as a result of the opening in Freetown of a branch of a well-known firm of consulting architects. The Education Department has already commissioned this firm to undertake work in connection with its building programme, and it was hoped that the detailed planning and negotiations undertaken in 1956 would begin to show results in 1957.

Most of the capital construction undertaken during the year was in respect of schemes already started, but it was possible to begin work on three major new projects, all in Freetown : the re-housing of St. Edward's Secondary School, large-scale extensions to the Freetown Secondary School for Girls, and a second new primary school for 600 children. These projects are estimated to cost about £150,000 and are being financed almost entirely from the Colonial Development and Welfare allocation to Sierra Leone. Satisfactory progress was made on schemes already in hand, including modern science laboratories for the Prince of Wales School and the Annie Walsh Memorial School, and the first of three large new primary schools in the city ; all three projects were completed during the year. Work continued on the following major development schemes : the teacher-training colleges at Kenema (women), Bo (men) and Njala (men), and Christ the King Secondary School, Bo. Work was also continued on the Freetown Technical Institute and the branch institute at Kenema by the Principal, his staff and the students themselves. In the Provinces 39 new primary schools opened, the buildings having been erected with funds supplied partly by the central government and partly by the local education authorities.

During 1956 the Fourah Bay College Council was informed that the Secretary of State for the Colonies had agreed in principle to the Council's proposals that the new college should be built on the present Mount Aureol site. Following this approval, the College Council, in conjunction with its architects, planned the first phase of the building programme which will include new laboratories for the departments of botany, chemistry, physics and zoology, laboratories and a workshop for the proposed technological courses, two women's and two men's halls of residence, and a new dining hall and kitchens. Work on the previous programme, providing for thirty-six additional senior staff houses, has continued and virtually half of this project has now been completed. In September, 1956, work on the new technological laboratories was started. During the year the Sierra Leone Government announced its intention to contribute £50,000 towards the cost of the building programme, the Sierra Leone Development Company, Limited, gave a sum of £25,000 towards the cost of building and equipping the technological laboratories and an agreement whereby the International Co-operation Administration is to contribute a sum of £17,500 towards the cost of equipping the technological laboratories was confirmed.

In the year under review the Secretary of State gave approval to several Colonial Development and Welfare schemes relating to the first phase of development of the permanent college. Among these were :



	£
Housing site development scheme	84,700
College playing fields scheme .	6,250
Additional water storage scheme	26,500
Water distribution scheme	15,000
Applied science laboratories scheme	22,000

Details of Colonial Development and Welfare schemes which were either initiated or in progress during the period under review are shown in the following table.

Scheme No.	Title	Total Expenditure to 31st December, 1956			C. D. & W. Assistance			Territorial Share		
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
D.866	Protectorate Health Centres	77,527	3	0	76,837	17	2	689	5	10
D.1048A	Central Geological Survey	123,141	3	1	67,100	0	0	56,041	3	1
D.1269	Library Grants	2,574	11	10	2,574	11	10	—		
D.1293A	Extension of Government School	150,278	10	6	149,230	0	0	1,048	10	6
D.1340/A	Rice Research Station, Rokupr	19,654	0	9	16,422	0	0	3,232	0	9
D.1372	Establishment of Central Schools in the Protectorate	6,344	9	7	32,844	9	7	30,500	0	0
D.1389	Expansion of Protectorate Literature Bureau	28,437	10	2	21,080	7	8	7,357	2	6
D.1555/A	Meteorological Survey	29,425	18	3	29,425	18	3	—		
D.1620/A	Aeronautical Tele-communications	8,895	11	2	8,778	5	8	117	5	6
D.1633	Agricultural Livestock Improvement	57,991	3	5	55,906	14	3	2,084	9	2
D.1641	Health Centres (Colony)	24,314	4	7	24,314	4	7	—		
D.1723/A	Expansion of Annie Walsh Memorial School	46,741	1	5	29,720	2	10	17,020	18	7
D.1788/B	Fourah Bay College, Recurrent	197,000	0	0	48,000	0	0	149,000	0	0
D.1867	Improvement of Literature Distribution	6,278	0	0	6,278	0	0	—		
D.1884	Stage one in the reconstruction of Prince of Wales School	65,395	12	2	65,000	0	0	395	12	2
D.1917	Improvement of facilities at Teacher Training College, Bunumbu	25,250	0	0	17,238	0	0	8,012	0	0
D.1994	Construction of 4 hospitals in the Protectorate	174,953	3	9	174,953	3	9	—		
D.1995	Replacement of 10 Ferries by Road Bridges	609,653	11	3	440,000	0	0	169,653	11	3
D.1996	Construction of 106 miles of New Road	109,156	0	11	109,156	0	11	—		
D.2070	Surveys and Trials on potential New Rice land	59,657	0	3	59,007	18	8	649	1	7
D.2094	Central Broadcasting Station	21,452	6	5	21,452	6	5	—		
D.2183	Construction of Bo Water Supply	190,441	6	10	34,918	0	7	155,523	6	3
D.2217	Resurfacing of 8½ miles of Freetown—Occra Hills Trunk Road	27,275	14	0	27,275	14	0	—		
D.2219	Kambia and Port Loko Hospitals	36,895	6	2	36,895	6	2	—		

<i>Scheme No.</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Total Expenditure to 31st December, 1956</i>			<i>C. D. &amp; W. Assistance</i>			<i>Territorial Share</i>		
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
D.2350	New Primary Schools, Freetown . . . . .	53,411	10	7	53,411	10	7	—	—	—
D.2366	Construction of 6 new staff quarters . . . . .	13,400	0	0	13,400	0	0	—	—	—
D.2395	Laboratory practical room and Library . . . . .	27,000	0	0	17,000	0	0	10,000	0	0
D.2444	Appointments of Resident Architect at Fourah Bay College . . . . .	3,225	0	0	3,225	0	0	—	—	—
D.2519	Development of the Staff Housing site at Fourah Bay College . . . . .	70,000	0	0	70,000	0	0	—	—	—
D.2520	Appointment of a Clerk of Works at Fourah Bay College . . . . .	3,700	0	0	3,700	0	0	—	—	—
D.2690	Aerial Survey of parts of Sierra Leone . . . . .	9,791	10	0	9,791	10	0	—	—	—
R.273/A	West African Fisheries Research Institute . . . . .	361,417	1	7	229,595	5	2	131,821	16	5
R.299	Systematic Botanist Ecologist . . . . .	4,984	13	11	2,861	10	5	2,123	3	6
R.300/A	Rice Research Station, Rokupr . . . . .	113,599	7	11	88,755	7	9	24,844	0	2
R.469	Malaria Research . . . . .	1,008	6	10	1,008	6	10	—	—	—
R.585	Control of Rice Infestation . . . . .	2,768	6	2	2,768	6	2	—	—	—
R.595	Economic Research . . . . .	2,077	8	11	2,077	8	11	—	—	—



## PART II

### *Chapter 1 : Population*

No full census of the population in the Colony area of Sierra Leone has been taken since 1931, but an enumeration was carried out on 28th December, 1947 ; population estimates for the Protectorate, based on test counts carried out in selected areas, were made in 1931 and in June, 1948. In all cases the work was done by the administration without the aid of any specially trained staff. The results are not in any way intended to be a substitute for a full census, but it is considered that they give some guide to the present distribution of population. In mid-1956 the population was estimated at 2,100,000.

The results of the 1947 enumeration indicated that since 1931 there had been an annual increase in the population of the Colony of approximately 1.5 per cent. How much of this increase was due to immigration from the Protectorate and how much to natural causes cannot be definitely stated, though there was undoubtedly a large influx of labour to the Colony from the Protectorate during the war years, and it is probable that a number of the immigrants did not return to their homes. The rate of increase of the population in the Protectorate between 1931 and 1948 was about 2 per cent per annum, though it must again be emphasised that these figures should be treated with caution.

In Sierra Leone there are Africans of many tribes, 13 of which are indigenous, each having a different language. There are no recent estimates of the numbers in these tribes, but it may be said that over 50 per cent of the total African population in the territory is of the Mende tribe, and that just under 30 per cent is of the Temne tribe. The Mende and Temne languages are widely spoken in the south and north respectively, and for all practical purposes are sufficient for the localities concerned. The only *lingua franca* is a form of pidgin English, which is fairly wide-spread, though by no means universal.

The registration of births and deaths which has been compulsory in the Colony for some years was made compulsory in seven Chiefdoms in the Protectorate in 1956, and up to December, 1956, 125 more chiefdoms voluntarily accepted registration of births and deaths.

The registrations recorded in the Colony are fairly accurate in Freetown and some villages; those recorded in the Protectorate are unreliable. The figures for 1956 were :

	Births			Deaths		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Freetown . . .	1,990	1,933	3,923	1,055	849	1,904
Rest of Colony .	839	900	1,739	708	698	1,406
TOTALS . . .	2,829	2,833	5,662	1,763	1,547	3,310

Out of the total of 3,923 births registered in Freetown, 520 deaths of children under one year of age were registered, giving an infant mortality rate of 132.5 per thousand. Of the 520 deaths, 85 per cent occurred during the first month of life. These rates are affected however both by the presence of a large maternity home in Freetown and probably by under-registration of births.

The population of Freetown is approximately 100,000 although there are indications that this might be an under-estimate. Figures are not available for the main towns in the Protectorate but it is estimated that Bo, the largest town, has a population of between 20,000 and 30,000.

More detailed figures are given in Chapters 7 and 9.

## Chapter 2 : Occupations, Wages and Labour Organisation

### EMPLOYMENT

Sierra Leone is an agricultural country in which the majority of workers are engaged in peasant farming. Mechanised farming under the aegis of the Government is increasing gradually.

The following table shows the number of wage earners engaged in each of the principal industries during 1956 and the previous year :

#### *Numbers Employed in the Principal Industries*

<i>Industry or Service</i>	<i>1956</i>	<i>1955</i>	<i>Increase or Decrease</i>
Mining . . . . .	5,900	5,500	+ 400
Maritime and Waterfront . . . . .	8,134	10,400	— 2,266
Railway (Government) . . . . .	4,700	3,800	+ 900
Building and Construction (including P.W.D.) . . . . .	8,200	8,200	
Road Transport . . . . .	1,000	500	+ 500
Clerical and Commercial Workers . . . . .	6,000	6,200	— 200
TOTAL . . . . .	33,934	34,600	— 666



From the returns rendered to the Labour Department by employers of six or more workers it is calculated that in December, 1956, 44,800 were engaged in industry. Employers of less than six workers are not required to submit these returns.

It is estimated that the total wage earning population is between 75,000 and 80,000.

The large decrease in the strength of registered maritime and waterfront workers is due to the fact that large numbers of workers who for various reasons have been unable to find an opening have become discouraged and allowed their registrations to lapse. There has also been a number of resignations from workers who preferred to return to shore employment. At the end of December, 1956, over 2,000 workers were engaged on coastwise vessels and 1,000 as stevedores and waterfront workers.

### *Unemployment*

Unemployment does not present a serious administrative problem in this territory. The number of persons registered at the various employment exchanges was 1,269 in January. This figure fell gradually throughout the year and in December only 833 unemployed workers were registered. These figures compare favourably with the monthly averages of 1,443 in 1954 and 1,193 in 1955. The improvement in communications following the construction of bridges to replace ferries has led to an increase in the mobility of labour, thus reducing small isolated pockets of unemployment.

### *Immigrant and Emigrant Labour*

The immigration of traders and workers from other West African territories continued on a bigger scale in 1956. These persons came mainly from the French territories. Although no statistical records are available about their numbers or destination in Sierra Leone, there is no doubt that thousands settled in the diamond areas of the South Eastern Province. Their presence accentuated the scarcity of local foodstuffs and inflated the cost of living. Most of these immigrants were returned to their homes across the border by the administrative action which took place at the end of the year (see p. 5).

Owing to the good prospects of employment within the territory there was no noticeable emigration of workers from Sierra Leone.

### *Wages and Conditions of Employment*

With the exception of civil servants (clerical and administrative grades) the majority of workers covered by various wage-fixing bodies secured increases of pay during the year.

In the Joint Industrial Council for Artisans and General Workers in 1956, agreement was reached for the first time to grant six paid public holidays to daily-paid workers who were within the scope of this Joint Industrial Council and who had completed one year's

service. The public holidays agreed on were : Christmas Day, Boxing Day, Good Friday, Easter Monday and the Muslim feast days of Eid-ul-Fitri and Eid-ul-Adha. The Joint Industrial Council for the Transport Industry made a similar agreement.

The Workers' Side of the Joint Industrial Council for Artisans and General Workers submitted a claim for sick leave with pay. No agreement was reached, and the two sides of the Council agreed to refer the matter to arbitration. A similar claim was suspended by the Joint Industrial Council for the Transport Industry pending the decision of the arbitration tribunal. The tribunal appointed consisted of Father John O'Reilly, Chairman, Mr. T. R. C. Raikes, Postmaster-General, representing employers, and Mr. George C. Thomas, General Secretary, Maritime and Waterfront Workers' Union, representing workers. The award made by the tribunal was favourable to the workers' claim.

Towards the second half of the year the rise in prices was reflected in increases in the Quarterly Retail Prices Indices for the Freetown Area. This gave rise to a general demand for wage increases by workers engaged in industry. The two Joint Industrial Councils for the Artisans and General Workers and for the Transport Industry awarded increases of 9*d.* a day on the wages of all workers covered by both Councils. The increase in both cases came into effect on 1st November.

One important feature of these negotiations was the upgrading of the whole of the South Eastern Province to Area "A" rates, and of towns in the Northern and South-Western Provinces, where licensed alluvial diamond mining was being carried out, to Area "B" rates.

The Maritime and Waterfront Workers' Wages Board negotiated wage claims and awarded increases of 9*d.*, 8*d.* and 7*d.* per day to various categories of maritime and waterfront workers. Having regard to the trend of wage rates, the Mining Workers' Wages Board also awarded an increase of 6*d.* per day to the basic minimum rates in the mining industry. The Board also awarded increased holidays with pay.

In December there was a meeting of the Joint Committee for Teachers to consider claims submitted by the Amalgamated Teachers' Organisations. The Committee agreed to adjourn till early in the new year.

Wage rates, earnings, hours of work etc. are shown in the following tables.



*Wage-rates, Hours of Work and other conditions*

<i>Industry or Service</i>	<i>Wages or Salaries</i>	<i>Type of Wage or Salary</i>	<i>Hours of work per week</i>	<i>Rest Days</i>	<i>Holidays with pay per annum</i>
Mining .	<i>Per Day</i> Unskilled 4s. 2d.-4s. 7d. Semi-skilled 4s. 7d.-6s. 5d. Skilled 5s. 8d.-13s. 7d.	Statutory	45	Sundays and 3 Public Holidays	15
Waterfront .	5s. 8d.-13s. 7d. 5s. 5d.-10s. 8d.	Statutory	48	Sundays and Recognised Public Holidays	—
Maritime Railway .	6s. 6d.-11s. 0d. Unskilled 5s.-6s. 3d. Semi-skilled 5s. 10d.-7s. 11d. Skilled 7s. 8d.-11s. 5d.	Statutory	60	—	—
Building & Construction	Unskilled 5s.-6s. 3d. Semi-skilled 5s. 9d.-8s. 5d. Skilled 7s. 5d.-10s. 11d.	Statutory	45	Sundays and Recognised Public Holidays	9, 12 and 14 and 6 Public Holidays
Road Transport .	5s. 1d.-11s. 5d.	Statutory	48	Sundays and Recognised Public Holidays	9, 12 and 14 and 6 Public Holidays
Commercial and Clerical Workers .	<i>Per Annum</i> £72— £588	Prevailing Rates	39½— 48	Sundays and Recognised Public Holidays	14—15

*Average Weekly Earnings and Hours Actually Worked in Certain Industries during 1956*

COLONY	Clerks			Artisans			Labourers		
	Average weekly earnings	Hours actually worked		Average weekly earnings	Hours actually worked		Average weekly earnings	Hours actually worked	
	£ s. d.			£ s. d.			£ s. d.		
Building and Construction	3 8 4	52.76		2 2 9	45.37		1 5 1	47.97	
Miscellaneous Manufacture .	3 0 0	45.19		2 3 11	46.66		1 9 0	48.78	
<i>PROTECTORATE</i>									
Agricultural Research .	3 14 0	45.65		2 1 10	38.00		1 3 5	43.84	
Building and Construction	3 6 3	45.89		2 8 0	39.27		1 4 0	41.60	
Forestry . . .	3 4 10	38.02		1 15 10	31.90		1 4 0	41.29	
Mining . . .	2 15 3	48.76		2 12 1	58.08		2 0 0	54.66	

COST OF LIVING

With the quarter ending June 1955 represented by 100, the average quarterly retail price index in respect of Freetown Area for the 3rd and 4th quarters of 1955 was 95.3 while the average for the four quarters of 1956 worked out at 103.5.

The respective indices are as follows :

Period	All Items	Group 1 Food	Group 2 Fuel & Light	Group 3 Drink & Tobacco	Group 4 Clothing	Group 5 Rent & Rates	Group 6 Other Items
3rd quarter of 1955 .	96.9	95.1	94.8	108.8	99.2	101.5	98.9
4th quarter of 1955 .	93.6	88.8	94.7	123.0	97.4	102.1	100.3
1st quarter of 1956 .	97.3	93.7	100.0	117.1	97.0	104.1	103.4
2nd quarter of 1956 .	107.8	108.9	102.6	125.7	97.5	105.9	102.0
3rd quarter of 1956 .	109.5	110.9	104.5	130.4	97.5	106.2	101.9
4th quarter of 1956 .	99.2	95.9	97.6	128.3	97.3	106.8	102.0

Following representations from both the Sierra Leone Mining Association and the Sierra Leone United Mineworkers' Union, the organisations representing respectively employers' and workers' interests in the territory's Wages Board for Mining Workers, a new index of retail prices for the mining areas was started during the year with the 3rd quarter of 1956 as the base date. The areas covered

are Marampa, Hangha and Yengema, involving the three major mining undertakings in Sierra Leone, namely the Sierra Leone Development Company, the Sierra Leone Chrome Mines, and the Sierra Leone Selection Trust.

The structure of this new index is based on the pattern of the Freetown Index introduced in 1955 by Mr. W. B. Reddaway, but with certain modifications as occasioned by conditions in the mining areas.

With the third quarter of 1956 as 100, the index figure for the fourth quarter was 95.

The respective indices are as follows :

<i>Period</i>	<i>All Items</i>	<i>Group 1 Food</i>	<i>Group 2 Fuel &amp; Light</i>	<i>Group 3 Drink &amp; Tobacco</i>	<i>Group 4 Clothing</i>	<i>Group 5 Rent &amp; Rates</i>	<i>Group 6 Other Items</i>
4th quarter of 1956 .	95.4	94.8	84.5	96.5	100.6	100.7	98.8

Retail prices of principal items of foodstuffs for June and December, 1956, in respect of Freetown Area, and the average retail prices for December, 1956, in respect of the three mining areas in the Provinces referred to in the preceding paragraphs are set out below (the base prices are shown in each case).

*Retail Prices of Essential Commodities  
Freetown Area*

<i>Article</i>	<i>Unit</i>	<i>Base Date 2nd Quarter of 1955</i>	<i>PRICES</i>			
			<i>June, 1956</i>		<i>December, 1956</i>	
		s.   d.	s.   d.		s.   d.	
Clean Rice (local) .	100 oz.	5   4.58	5   2.88		4   3.32	
Bread . . . . .	10 "	0   6.57	0   5.33		0   4.66	
Foofoo . . . . .	10 "	0   1.87	0   2.45		0   1.12	
Farina . . . . .	16 "	0   6.31	0   8.08		0   5.38	
Dried Fish . . . . .	16 "	2   1.19	2   1.58		1   9.54	
Fresh Fish . . . . .	16 "	2   6.15	2   6.61		2   0.18	
Sweet Potatoes . . . . .	10 "	0   2.03	0   2.17		0   1.56	
Cassava . . . . .	10 "	0   0.96	0   1.06		0   1.40	
Onions . . . . .	10 "	0   4.25	0   4.80		0   3.33	
Potato Leaves . . . . .	10 "	0   1.50	0   2.20		0   1.60	
Egusi (ground) . . . . .	10 "	2   0.51	2   4.24		2   1.26	
Peppers . . . . .	10 "	1   11.74	3   4.00		2   10.29	
Salt . . . . .	10 "	0   1.85	0   2.45		0   2.05	
Bananas . . . . .	16 "	0   2.29	0   2.82		0   1.22	
Groundnuts (roasted) . . . . .	10 "	0   11.48	1   4.00		0   10.43	
Sugar (granulated) . . . . .	10 "	0   4.78	0   4.53		0   5.63	
Coffee . . . . .	10 "	2   2.03	3   0.92		2   6.00	
Beef Steak . . . . .	1 lb.	3   4.00	3   6.00		3   6.00	
Groundnut Oil . . . . .	1 quart	3   2.00	3   0.00		3   0.00	
Palm Oil . . . . .	1 pint	0   9.00	0   11.00		1   0.00	
Tomato Purée . . . . .	small tin	0   4.00	0   4.00		0   5.00	
Evaporated Milk . . . . .	6 oz. tin	0   7.67	0   7.67		0   7.67	



*Average of Three Areas in the Provinces*

<i>Article</i>	<i>Unit</i>	<i>Base Date = 3rd Quarter 1956</i>	<i>December, 1956</i>
Clean Rice (local) . . . .	100 oz.	69.36d.	62.03d.
Bread . . . . .	10 "	8.53d.	7.18d.
Foofoo . . . . .	10 "	2.05d.	2.29d.
Farina . . . . .	10 "	5.17d.	4.62d.
Dried Fish . . . . .	10 "	24.42d.	27.06d.
Sweet Potatoes . . . . .	10 "	2.85d.	1.62d.
Cassava . . . . .	10 "	0.98d.	0.87d.
Onions . . . . .	10 "	11.13d.	10.00d.
Potato Leaves . . . . .	10 "	1.35d.	1.29d.
Egusi (shelled) . . . . .	10 "	25.91d.	19.26d.
Peppers . . . . .	10 "	44.38d.	43.54d.
Salt . . . . .	10 "	3.30d.	2.64d.
Bananas . . . . .	10 "	1.88d.	1.38d.
Groundnuts (roasted) . . . .	10 "	15.12d.	13.46d.
Sugar (cube) . . . . .	1 lb.	12.00d.	12.00d.
Coffee . . . . .	10 oz.	63.26d.	68.48d.
Beef Steak . . . . .	1 lb.	37.78d.	40.48d.
Groundnut Oil . . . . .	1 quart	47.89d.	43.89d.
Palm Oil . . . . .	1 quart	20.00d.	20.11d.
Tomato Purée . . . . .	small tin	5.11d.	5.11d.
Evaporated Milk . . . . .	6 oz. tin	8.56d.	8.66d.

## LABOUR DEPARTMENT

*Duties*

The main duties of the Department are as follows :

- (i) to advise the government on labour matters generally ;
- (ii) to maintain good industrial relations in the territory and improve them by the development and extension of collective bargaining and joint consultation between employers and workers or their representative organisations ;
- (iii) to promote efficiency in management and labour ;
- (iv) to reduce the effects of unemployment by the distribution of labour, where possible, to other areas and districts ;
- (v) to encourage the sound growth of trade unions and to enable them to shoulder greater responsibility in labour matters ;
- (vi) to enforce labour legislation by wages and other inspections ;
- (vii) to arrange trade tests and maintain a register of individual trade test records ;
- (viii) to register unemployed workers and place them in suitable employment ;
- (ix) vocational guidance with special emphasis on youth employment and apprenticeship ;
- (x) to carry out registration of workers by finger-printing for purposes of identification ; and
- (xi) to compile various labour statistics including retail prices indices,

*Inspections*

The following table gives an analysis of the wages inspections carried out in 1956 and for comparison the corresponding figures for 1955.

<i>Year</i>	<i>No. of wage inspections completed</i>	<i>Arrears of wages claimed</i>	<i>Arrears of wages paid</i>	<i>No. of workers whose wages were examined</i>	<i>No. of workers found to be underpaid</i>
1956	302	£ 879 s. 18 d. 0	£ 634 s. 4 d. 2	3,629	123
1955	269	£ 780 s. 6 d. 2	£ 667 s. 2 d. 6	3,429	184

Opportunity was taken in the course of inspections to ensure that employers complied with the requirements of other labour laws, for example the notification of vacancies to the Employment Exchange by certain employers as required by the Employers and Employed Ordinance, and in respect of the Colony area the employment only of workers holding registration certificates.

*Employment Exchanges*

By and large the activities of the employment exchanges kept pace with industrial development in the country. 6,183 vacancies were notified to the exchanges, of which, 4,380 were filled by the Central Employment Exchange, Freetown, and 1,229 by the other exchanges. For the same period, the following placings were effected by the Maritime and Harbour Pools: 19,897 maritime workers, 72,607 stevedores and 246,693 dock workers.

The Port Labour Board continued to supervise the recruitment of workers employed in the shipping industry and framed policy for the efficient working of both Maritime and Harbour Pools. It dealt with a number of disciplinary cases, and it is gratifying to record that there was a marked decrease in the number of offences which came before the Board.

The Central Registration Bureau, which is attached to the Central Employment Exchange, issues registration certificates to workers employed in the Colony. Registration certificates are issued to artisans in Bo, Kenema, Makeni, Magburaka and the area of Lungi airport. All these towns are in the Provinces. Certificates issued during the year totalled 4,202 of which 1,415 were fresh or first applications and 2,787 were renewal certificates.

## INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

No new trade union was registered during the year. The following eleven registered trade unions were functioning on 31st December, 1956:



	<i>General Membership</i>	<i>Paid-up Membership</i>
United Mineworkers' Union (Branches at Marampa, Yengema and Hangha) .	6,400	900
Maritime and Waterfront Workers' Union .	5,083	1,764
Transport and General Workers' Union . .	1,300	550
Artisans and Allied Workers' Union (Branches at Bo and Freetown) . . .	5,594	3,500
Railway Workers' Union . . . .	2,474	2,474
Clerical and Mercantile Workers' Union .	574	160
Elder Dempster African Staff Union . .	60	—
Amalgamated Teachers' Organisations .	711	445
The Sherbro Amalgamated Workers' Union	653	240
Sierra Leone Domestic Servants' Union .	214	20
Association of Builders and Building Contractors . . . . .	22	12

The registration of the Sierra Leone Washerwomen's Union was cancelled by the Registrar on the 12th October. The Registrar repeatedly tried without success to make contact with the officials of the Union and the Sierra Leone Council of Labour agreed that the Union seemed to have ceased to function some years ago.

### *Joint Consultation*

The Joint Consultative Committee was largely concerned during the year with the recommendation of the Shaw Commission that in the present stage of industrial development in this territory the time had come when consideration should be given to the division of the present Joint Industrial Councils to provide a separate wage negotiating body for commercial and industrial undertakings as distinct from Government. The Committee was also concerned with the Commission's recommendation that separate wage-fixing machinery for "essential services" should be created, parallel with revised legislation limiting the right to strike or lock-out. Draft legislation similar to that of other territories was still under discussion at the end of the year.

An innovation which took place in the Joint Industrial Council's machinery during the year was an amendment of their constitutions to provide a chairman and vice-chairman elected from within the Joint Industrial Councils, in contrast with the previous practice whereby a Labour Department official occupied the chair. The Labour Department continues to give technical advice and to provide a secretary for each of these Councils.

During the year there was a significant improvement in the relationship between employers and their workmen in the factory as well as in the wider field of industrial negotiations. Works Committees continued to play a predominant role in this respect. There was considerable goodwill from both sides of industry. This accounted for the absence of any major strike in 1956 as compared with 1955. Minor disputes, sometimes leading to stoppages of work lasting for a few hours, were settled to the satisfaction of all concerned by

the conciliation officers of the Labour Department, in many cases with the active participation of the trade unions.

#### LABOUR LEGISLATION

An ordinance was enacted to amend the Employers and Employed Ordinance (No. 9 of 1956) by abolishing penal sanctions for breaches of contract. The Forced Labour Ordinance (Cap. 82) was repealed by Ordinance No. 33 of 1956. Agreement was reached by those affected regarding the form that the essential services legislation should take. The draft bill was discussed by the Joint Consultative Committee and its observations were referred to the government for consideration.

There was a considerable amount of legislation relating to terms and conditions of employment of workers in certain industries during the year, including registration by fingerprinting of artisans in the Provinces.

#### SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE

##### *Safety*

Since the introduction of the new Ordinance (Workmen's Compensation, No. 18 of 1954) which enlarges the scope of the incapacitated worker's entitlement to compensation, the majority of employers, being aware of their additional obligations under the Ordinance, have as far as possible adopted reasonable safeguards to prevent accidents in the various work-places. Two hundred and twenty-eight non-fatal accidents were reported, as compared with 252 during the previous year. The number of fatal accidents was 9 as against 22 for 1955. Compensation paid in respect of fatal and non-fatal accidents amounted to £3,355 8s. 5d. and £3,591 13s. 4d. respectively. The corresponding figures for 1955 were £8,054 11s. 11d. and £4,343 9s. 2d. Employers have, to a large extent, complied with the requirements of the Workmen's Compensation (Notification of Injuries) Rules, 1955, and except where an employer is unaware of the requirements of the Rules, accidents which appear to incapacitate a worker for a period of at least four consecutive days have been promptly notified to the Labour Department. Workers who suffered disabilities as a result of accidents in their employment have greatly benefited by the enlarged scope of the new Ordinance. The safety of workers employed in undertakings where dangerous machinery is installed is provided for in the Machinery (Safe Working and Inspection) Ordinance, Cap. 134, which is administered by the Chief Inspector of Mines. Boilers of the Railway Department are excluded from this Ordinance and the Chief Mechanical Engineer of the Railway is responsible for their maintenance.

##### *Health and Welfare*

The health of the workers was on the whole good. No cases of



occupational diseases were brought to the notice of the Labour Department during the year.

Welfare facilities continued to be provided by the large mining undertakings and other commercial companies.

There are no unemployment benefit schemes in operation.

#### INDUSTRIAL TRAINING

The Joint Apprenticeship Scheme which was established in 1954 began to be implemented in 1955 and there are now 124 apprentices receiving training at the Technical Institute as follows :

	<i>No.</i>
Road Transport Department	16
Port and Marine . . .	6
Sierra Leone Railway . .	58
Public Works Department	38
United Africa Company . .	6
	<hr/> 124 <hr/>

These apprentices receive theoretical and practical instruction in carpentry, coach building, fitting, electricity, plumbing, painting and decorating, masonry and brick-laying and welding.

Sixty-nine of them have already signed the necessary indentures ; the rest are waiting the expiration of their probationary period of six months.

The scheme has been a success so far, and both parents and apprentices are co-operating with employers who are equally anxious to increase the number of qualified tradesmen to cope with the expanding needs of industry.

By arrangement with various employers, 445 trade tests were conducted; 292 tradesmen passed the tests, 137 obtaining the first-class certificate.

### *Chapter 3 : Public Finance and Taxation*

#### REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

REVENUE and expenditure for 1956 were £9,572,098 and £9,828,246 respectively as compared with £7,545,016 and £7,396,556 in 1955. Included in the expenditure was £1,570,000 paid as compensation to the Sierra Leone Selection Trust in accordance with a revised agreement on diamond mining, and a special payment of £812,000 which was paid into the Development Fund. The estimated figures for 1956 were £8,253,731 and £8,171,357 respectively : revenue was £1,318,367 and expenditure was £1,656,889 more than the estimates.

Main increases in revenue were :

	£
Customs . . . . .	1,210,267
Taxes . . . . .	396,285

Revenue from Colonial Development and Welfare funds was £479,282 as compared with the estimate of £805,522. On the expenditure side, the figures were £770,822 and £1,511,568 respectively.

Customs Revenue was £5,356,267 an increase of £1,210,267.

The deficit at the close of the year was £280,543, but when allowance is made for the two special payments of £1,570,000 and £812,000 referred to above, the year's working resulted in a surplus of £2,101,457. The net depreciation on investments amounted to £24,395 and the general revenue balance was decreased to £2,904,341.

The tables below give the figures of revenue and expenditure for the years 1954, 1955 and 1956.

REVENUE			
<i>Ordinary</i>	<i>1954</i>	<i>1955</i>	<i>1956</i>
	£	£	£
Customs . . . . .	3,562,768	4,262,591	5,356,267
Harbour and Light Dues . . . . .	61,821	81,312	116,915
Licences and Internal Revenue . . . . .	35,038	43,296	97,569
Taxes . . . . .	2,476,681	1,518,684	2,441,285
Fees and Receipts . . . . .	396,562	469,168	593,863
Reimbursements . . . . .	84,851	88,796	106,609
Posts and Telegraphs . . . . .	107,907	126,788	172,649
Royalties . . . . .	46,597	46,340	34,969
Interests and Loan Repayments . . . . .	157,906	109,856	96,764
Total Ordinary Revenue . . . . .	£6,930,131	£6,746,831	£9,016,890
<hr/>			
<i>Extraordinary</i>	<i>1954</i>	<i>1955</i>	<i>1956</i>
	£	£	£
Special Receipts . . . . .	116,166	37,351	46,723
Colonial Development & Welfare Vote . . . . .	539,821	589,810	479,282
Miscellaneous . . . . .	16,817	20,980	23,304
Land Sales . . . . .	269	3,011	5,382
Grants from Sierra Leone Produce Marketing Board and Education Fund . . . . .	15,000	146,749	—
Investments . . . . .	3,095	284	517
Total Extraordinary Revenue . . . . .	£691,168	£798,185	£555,208
TOTAL REVENUE . . . . .	£7,621,299	£7,545,016	£9,572,098



## EXPENDITURE

<i>Ordinary</i>	<i>1954</i>	<i>1955</i>	<i>1956</i>
	£	£	£
Agriculture . . . . .	133,931	168,229	212,449
Education . . . . .	531,199	731,553	992,142
Forestry . . . . .	47,778	51,999	52,396
Forest Industries (a) . . . . .	117,385	121,867	141,879
Medical and Health . . . . .	436,418	488,677	564,162
Other Departments . . . . .	1,692,065	2,111,033	2,327,233
Miscellaneous Services (b) . . . . .	433,064	372,018	605,404
Pensions and Gratuities . . . . .	224,150	308,547	282,449
Public Debt Charges (c) . . . . .	230,669	261,827	193,798
Public Works Annually Recur- rent . . . . .	333,670	414,513	538,550
Railway Recurrent . . . . .	145,479	228,487	262,560
Military . . . . .	99,824	124,867	134,285
Total Ordinary Expenditure	£4,425,632	£5,383,617	£6,307,307

<i>Extraordinary</i>	<i>1954</i>	<i>1955</i>	<i>1956</i>
	£	£	£
Compensation . . . . .	—	—	1,570,000
Electricity . . . . .	34,555	29,925	57,112
Posts and Telegraphs . . . . .	10,487	10,213	35,999
Public Works . . . . .	460,280	351,326	457,796
Road Transport . . . . .	50,350	42,466	58,194
Development Schemes (d) . . . . .	1,461,996	1,289,781	—
Miscellaneous . . . . .	9	744	1,338
Loans to Local Bodies, etc. . . . .	2,530	31,292	11,720
Railway Non-Recurrent . . . . .	223,276	257,192	150,871
Development . . . . .	—	—	1,177,909
Pensions . . . . .	194,000	—	—
Total Extraordinary Expen- diture . . . . .	£2,437,483	£2,012,939	£3,520,939
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£6,863,115	£7,396,556	£9,828,246

(a) Previously included under Development Schemes.

(b) Includes grants to local administrations, and charges not classified departmentally.

(c) Excludes the portion of interest payable by the Railway.

(d) Includes expenditure recoverable under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act.

## PUBLIC DEBT

THE Public Debt was £4,410,582 on 31st December, 1956, and the Sinking Funds for its amortisation had accumulated to £663,414 on the same date. Interest and redemption charges amounted to £256,339.

The sums of £9,900 and £26,850 respectively were subscribed locally to the loans of £2,030,000 and £1,680,000 which were raised in 1950 and 1953.

## ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

At 31st December, 1956, liabilities totalled £5,000,290 and assets amounted to £7,904,631, thus showing an excess of assets over liabilities of £2,904,341.

The cash, investments and reserves held by Government for its own account amounted to £3,208,834, made up as follows :

Cash (available to meet expenditure) . . . . .	£	1,765,439
Reserve Fund . . . . .		82,881
Surplus Funds invested . . . . .		1,360,514
		<hr/>
		£3,208,834

## MAIN HEADS OF TAXATION

*Taxation Yields in 1956*

Customs Duties :	£	£
(a) Export . . . . .	617,031	
(b) Import . . . . .	4,719,110	
	<hr/>	5,336,141
Income Tax and Concession Duty :		
(a) Companies . . . . .	2,283,642	
(b) Personal . . . . .	150,421	
	<hr/>	2,434,063
Poll Tax (Non-Native) . . . . .		7,011
Royalties (Gold, Iron Ore) . . . . .		1,505
Stamp Duty . . . . .		10,824

There are no excise duties in Sierra Leone. Stamp duty is collected mainly on cheques, bills of lading and probates of wills, conveyances, etc.

*Customs Duties*

Customs duty is payable on most imported goods and on a few domestic exports.

Import duties are collected on either an *ad valorem* or a specific basis, and a preference, which in most cases is equivalent to nearly 7½ per cent of the general rate, is granted to goods of Commonwealth and Irish Republic origin or manufacture. The largest import revenue is collected on tobacco (manufactured and unmanufactured), textiles, drink, petroleum products and metals.

Export duties on a specific basis are collected on palm kernels, coffee, ginger, piassava and kola nuts and on an *ad valorem* basis on palm oil, groundnuts, benniseed, cocoa and alluvial diamonds. Palm kernels continued to provide the highest export duty—£329,232, though there was a considerable decrease of £21,863 compared with 1955 because of a lower rate of duty which came into force on the 20th of September, 1956.

Import duties in 1956 produced £4,719,110 compared with £3,646,199 in 1955 and export duties £617,031 compared with £612,127 in 1955.



*Income and Poll Tax*

Income tax was chargeable in 1956-57 at graduated rates (beginning at 6*d.* in the pound) on individuals and at a flat rate (9*s.* in the pound) on companies. Individuals were granted personal allowances and other deductions before the graduated rates began to be applied. An unmarried man was granted £300, a married man, £500. Children's allowances were granted at rates between £25 and £100 per child (up to a maximum of four children) according to where the child was maintained and whether costs of education were incurred. Dependent relatives' allowance was also granted. Allowance was granted for life assurance and similar provision, subject to a generous maximum. In addition, contributions to approved pension and provident funds and expenditure incurred on passages were allowed, subject to conditions, as deductions in arriving at income.

Arrangements have been concluded with the United Kingdom and certain other Commonwealth and foreign countries for the avoidance of double taxation. Broadly, they provide that tax payable on income from sources within one territory shall be allowed as a credit against tax chargeable on the same income in the other territory. Pensions and certain other forms of income are taxable in only one territory and are exempt in the other.

Poll tax at £4 a year, or £2 a half-year, was payable, subject to certain exemptions, by non-natives who resided in Sierra Leone for more than three months. Minors and married women living with their husbands were among the persons exempted. Poll tax was off-set against income tax that might have been payable.

The following illustrates the incidence of income tax on individuals:

*Incidence of Income Tax on Individuals*

		On Incomes of																					
		£300	£400			£500			£600			£700			£800			£900			£1,000		
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
Single Man . . . . .		Nil	2	10	0	5	0	0	7	10	0	10	0	0	15	0	0	20	0	0	25	0	0
Married Man . . . . .		„	Nil			Nil			2	10	0	5	0	0	7	10	0	10	0	0	15	0	0
„ with 1 child . . . . .		„	„			„			1	17	6	4	7	6	6	17	6	9	7	6	14	7	0
„ „ 2 children . . . . .		„	„			„			1	5	0	3	15	0	6	5	0	8	15	0	12	10	6
„ „ 3 „ . . . . .		„	„			„			12	6		3	2	6	5	12	6	8	2	6	11	5	0
„ „ 4 „ . . . . .		„	„			„			Nil			2	10	0	5	0	0	7	10	0	10	0	0

*Local Tax*

This tax is levied in the Protectorate by local authorities, at a rate not exceeding 25*s.* per year, on every adult male.

## FINANCES OF PRINCIPAL LOCAL AUTHORITIES

IN the Colony the principal local authorities are the Freetown City Council and the Rural Area Council. In the Provinces there are 12 District Councils and 144 Native Administrations. Details of their revenue and expenditure for 1955 and 1956 are as follows :

*Freetown City Council*

	<i>Revenue</i> <i>Actual</i>		<i>Expenditure</i> <i>Actual</i>	
	1954-55	1955-56	1954-55	1955-56
	£	£	£	£
Finance and General Purposes Committee . . . . .	6,913	11,453	10,831	16,363
Protection Committee . . . . .	7,748	8,613	23,918	25,446
Health, Housing and Building Scheme Committee . . . . .	3	—	100	—
Recreational Facilities Committee . . . . .	2,916	3,517	11,869	14,660
Education and Publicity Committee . . . . .	3,814	6,980	9,039	14,173
Assessment Committee . . . . .	—	40	4,229	4,566
Municipal Trading Committee				
Market . . . . .	15,525	15,562	14,950	16,787
Funeral Transport . . . . .	567		1,946	
City Rate . . . . .	46,252	52,649	—	—
Surplus Revenue . . . . .	—	—	6,856	6,819
	£83,738	£98,814	£83,738	£98,814

*Rural Area Council*

	1955	1956
Revenue . . . . .	£14,444	£11,354
Expenditure . . . . .	£13,948	£9,226

*The 12 District Councils*

	<i>Revenue</i>		<i>Expenditure</i>	
	<i>Revised</i>	<i>Estimated</i>	<i>Revised</i>	<i>Estimated</i>
	1955	1956	1955	1956
	£	£	£	£
Bo . . . . .	66,764	51,377	64,022	57,463
Bombali . . . . .	44,890	44,581	45,899	47,306
Bonthe . . . . .	27,791	32,128	28,343	35,669
Kailahun . . . . .	37,601	41,495	36,522	39,308
Kambia . . . . .	41,157	35,699	37,743	36,403
Kenema . . . . .	47,657	41,336	43,173	40,453
Koinadugu . . . . .	26,383	28,807	25,826	32,789
Kono . . . . .	53,528	44,196	57,570	43,442
Moyamba . . . . .	51,226	46,306	56,556	46,211
Port Loko . . . . .	46,499	49,368	43,073	52,451
Pujehun . . . . .	31,688	27,854	30,170	29,688
Tonkolili . . . . .	30,390	25,188	29,855	22,806
TOTAL . . . . .	£505,574	£468,335	£498,752	£483,989

*Sherbro Urban District Council*

	<i>Actual</i>	<i>Revised</i>
	£	£
	1955	1956
Revenue . . . . .	9,381	14,033
Expenditure . . . . .	9,061	14,724



Bo Town Council started its first full year of operations in 1956 and the estimated 1956 figures for revenue and expenditure were as follows :

Revenue	.	.	.	£20,614
Expenditure	.	.	.	£18,938

The combined total revenue estimates of the 144 native administrations amounted to £626,097 compared with £661,953 in 1955. Total expenditure in 1956 was £669,609 compared with £667,091 in 1955. At the 31st December, 1956, the total assets of native administrations were estimated at £271,621 as against £254,134 at the end of 1955.

## Chapter 4 : Currency and Banking

### CURRENCY

THE currency in circulation in the Territory consists of notes of the face value of £5, £1 and 10s., nickel-bronze coins of  $\frac{1}{2}d.$ ,  $1d.$  and  $3d.$  and nickel-brass of  $6d.$ ,  $1s.$  and  $2s.$  These are provided by the West African Currency Board which has its offices in London and is represented locally by a Currency Officer. Its Agents are the Bank of British West Africa Limited.

At 31st December, 1956, West African Currency Board notes in circulation were estimated at £7,960,748 and coins at £4,740,689.

### BANKING

THERE are two banks operating in the territory, the Bank of British West Africa Limited, and Barclays Bank, (D.C.O.). The former has a branch at Bo in the Protectorate and agencies at Segwema and Pendembu, Bonthe; the latter has branches at Kenema and Makeni, Kroo Town Road, Cline Town.

Savings Bank facilities are offered by both these banks as also by the Post Office Savings Bank. In the last, the rate of interest payable is  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent per annum and at 31st December, 1956, the amount standing to the credit of 62,936 depositors was £1,531,578.

## Chapter 5 : Commerce

DURING 1956 there were no significant changes in the regulations affecting imports. Most classes of goods can be imported without restriction from non-dollar countries (with the exception of Russia and its satellites and Japan). Increased purchasing power continued to create a strong demand for low-priced consumer goods.



*Value of Imports into and Exports from Sierra Leone, 1954—1956*

	1954 £	1955 £	1956 £
Imports (a) . . .	12,876,250	17,114,967	23,093,100
Exports (total) (c) . . .	11,398,305	10,222,067	13,200,557 (b)
Re-Exports . . .	397,429	292,443	1,052,462

(a) Excluding bullion and specie.

(b) Subject to further adjustment in respect of shipment of iron ore during the last quarter of 1956.

(c) Excluding re-exports of bullion and specie.

## IMPORTS

THE origin of imports by value is shown in the table on p. 32 and main imports by quantity and value on p. 35.

*Origin of Imports (By Value)—1954-1956*

COUNTRIES	1954	1955	1956
<i>British Commonwealth</i>	£	£	£
United Kingdom . . . . .	8,401,849	10,289,717	12,520,966
Australia . . . . .	34,317	27,928	37,695
Canada . . . . .	178,519	259,246	306,935
Cyprus . . . . .	122,727	155,350	211,020
Gold Coast . . . . .	68,592	65,241	118,626
Hong Kong . . . . .	407,644	696,923	627,338
India . . . . .	598,436	771,371	937,625
Jamaica . . . . .	6,732	5,401	4,553
New Zealand . . . . .	24,760	26,378	33,527
Nigeria . . . . .	184,750	242,072	271,217
Nyasaland . . . . .	294,351	245,238	322,092
Trinidad . . . . .	20,451	53,374	425,213
Union of South Africa . . . . .	114,084	150,397	185,555
Other parts of the British Commonwealth . . . . .	32,816	502,024	251,968
<i>Total Commonwealth</i> . . . . .	10,490,028	13,490,660	16,254,330
Irish Republic . . . . .	149,937	180,508	236,565
<i>Foreign Countries</i>			
Belgium . . . . .	65,931	139,236	150,106
Czechoslovakia . . . . .	57,671	78,329	134,381
Denmark . . . . .	41,424	62,372	172,710
France . . . . .	68,643	96,245	183,980
French Morocco . . . . .	12,155	10,346	8,159
Germany, Fed. Republic . . . . .	151,914	410,973	660,518
Germany, Eastern . . . . .	2,942	12,159	20,256
Italy . . . . .	422,741	271,780	2,044,016
Japan . . . . .	128,666	361,819	1,189,532
Madeira . . . . .	10,984	2,996	7,098
Netherlands . . . . .	306,071	501,112	717,598
Netherlands West Indies . . . . .	452,312	585,860	395,238
Norway . . . . .	12,646	21,444	23,527
Portugal . . . . .	78,644	154,710	105,403
Spain . . . . .	10,970	9,094	16,835
Sweden . . . . .	63,804	90,676	129,366
United States of America . . . . .	263,831	285,642	380,975
Other foreign countries . . . . .	84,936	349,006	262,507
<i>Total Foreign</i> . . . . .	2,236,285	3,443,799	6,602,205
GRAND TOTAL* . . . . .	12,876,250	17,114,967	23,093,100

\*Excluding bullion and specie.

## EXPORTS

THE destination of exports by value, is shown in the table on p. 33 and main exports by quantity and value on p. 34.

*Destinations of Exports (By Value)—1954-1956*

<i>COUNTRIES</i>	<i>1954</i>	<i>1955</i>	<i>1956</i>
	£	£	£
<i>British Commonwealth</i>			
United Kingdom . . . . .	7,665,425	7,135,562	8,465,351 +
Australia . . . . .	—	7,476	1,161
Canada . . . . .	1,268	—	8,246
Gambia . . . . .	297,844	237,668	103,469
Gold Coast . . . . .	23,684	18,759	15,702
India . . . . .	—	80	136
Nigeria . . . . .	19,966	38,901	25,640
Union of South Africa . . . . .	20,107	26,421	41,794
Other parts of the British Commonwealth . . . . .	7,327	2,712	25,748
<i>Total Commonwealth</i> . . . . .	8,036,312	7,467,579	8,687,247
Irish Republic . . . . .	2,300	1	—
<i>Foreign Countries</i>			
Belgium . . . . .	153,516	21,054	111,462
Denmark . . . . .	101,598	67,260	124,781
France . . . . .	90,065	7,977	7,654
German Fed. Republic . . . . .	592,304	1,202,082	1,660,719 +
Italy . . . . .	67,497	24,908	93,081 +
Netherlands . . . . .	1,303,854	643,282	982,469 +
Norway . . . . .	1,752	25,555	1,575
Sweden . . . . .	6,142	1,229	936
United States of America . . . . .	840,287	637,942	662,701 +
Other Foreign Countries . . . . .	78,414	87,950	30,370
Ships' Stores . . . . .	124,264	35,248	837,562
<i>Total Foreign</i> . . . . .	3,359,693	2,754,487	4,513,310
<b>GRAND TOTAL*</b> . . . . .	<b>11,398,305</b>	<b>10,222,067</b>	<b>13,200,557</b>

\* Excluding re-exports of bullion and specie.

+ Subject to further adjustments in respect of shipments of iron ore during the last quarter of 1956.



## Quantities and Values of Principal Domestic Exports 1954-1956

ARTICLES	Unit	1956		1955		1954	
		Quantity	Value £	Quantity	Value £	Quantity	Value £
<i>Food</i>							
Bananas, fresh . . . . .	ewt.	323	333	5,834	7,624	13,234	16,169
Coconuts, fresh . . . . .	"	488	1,013	504	680	2,086	2,445
Kola Nuts . . . . .	"	16,565	106,840	22,536	212,095	27,597	275,545
Coffee, not roasted . . . . .	"	60,180	660,875	41,845	473,983	47,868	862,892
Cocoa Beans . . . . .	"	57,620	581,305	43,531	740,829	34,762	802,565
Ginger . . . . .	"	22,355	241,269	34,654	357,320	22,869	162,206
<i>Crude Materials (mainly inedible and excepting fuels)</i>							
Groundnuts . . . . .	ton	—	2	—	2	1,142	64,288
Palm Kernels . . . . .	"	57,645	2,507,889	57,640	2,509,537	68,080	3,763,924
Benniseed . . . . .	"	12	761	111	8,848	198	17,561
Iron Ore . . . . .	"	1,328,019	4,003,016	1,331,573	3,709,595	877,306	2,707,324
Chromium Ore . . . . .	"	18,774	194,630	17,750	192,331	15,120	165,025
Piassava . . . . .	cwt.	104,878	309,395	98,519	254,368	113,865	334,210
<i>Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats</i>							
Palm Oil . . . . .	ton	13	1,464	16	2,252	919	53,667
Beeswax . . . . .	lb.	25,630	6,074	42,076	8,889	46,781	8,392
<i>Manufactured Goods Classified by Materials</i>							
Diamonds, alluvial . . . . .	carat	124,724	1,626,637	—	—	—	—
Diamonds, other . . . . .	"	523,073	1,830,748	401,423	1,400,478	443,598	1,699,875
<i>Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities</i>							
Monkeys . . . . .	no.	628	1,512	1,211	4,484	486	1,441
Chimpanzees . . . . .	"	203	10,335	191	7,190	238	10,030
<i>Transactions in Gold and Monetary Items</i>							
Gold Coin and Bullion . . . . .	oz. troy	452	4,741	241	2,542	2,530	26,573

COMMODITIES	UNIT	Quantity	Value £	Quantity	Value £	Quantity	Value £
Rice . . . . .	cwt.	735,993	1,650,442	421,314	968,018	91,722	289,858
Sugar . . . . .	cwt.	145,346	417,833	135,125	384,587	83,333	214,549
Still Wine . . . . .	gall.	708,647	280,957	582,731	234,443	503,766	211,284
Beer, etc. . . . .	gall.	1,826,954	850,563	1,701,342	759,347	1,056,676	509,395
Tobacco, unmanufactured . . . . .	cwt.	17,676	335,988	14,419	253,040	16,753	296,634
Tobacco, manufactured . . . . .	lb.	382	966	194	422	173	422
Cigars and Cheroots . . . . .	lb.	571,355	364,372	468,415	304,814	319,640	192,541
Cigarettes . . . . .	1,000	261,160		206,386		129,642	
Aviation Spirit . . . . .	gall.	250,610	42,877	218,807	31,325	235,587	32,113
Motor Spirit . . . . .	gall.	4,380,338	230,365	3,048,976	283,886	2,076,698	172,059
Lamp Oil . . . . .	gall.	2,674,134	147,811	3,326,425	156,643	2,347,110	126,283
Cotton fabrics of standard type (excluding narrow and special fabrics and fents and knitted fabrics) . . . . .	sq. yd. lb.	25,974,608 6,115,598	2,267,139	21,915,703 5,517,083	1,958,010	19,264,612 4,851,965	1,832,733
Fents (Cotton) . . . . .	lb.	245,022	63,325	372,413	98,668	488,210	135,771
Fabrics of synthetic fibres (in- cluding headties in the piece but excluding fents and knit- ted fabrics) . . . . .	sq. yd. lb.	9,467,556 2,917,470	939,779	4,651,204 1,514,110	543,454	4,857,865 1,521,397	583,043
Jute, bags and sacks, new . . . . .	no. cwt. ton.	1,156,141 23,688 35,345	112,484	940,178 26,891 26,303	98,009	890,905 17,922 24,108	89,023
Cement . . . . .	ton.		295,347		224,061		198,425
Iron and steel manufactures (ex- cluding buckets, pails and basins) . . . . .	ton	10,757	757,945	10,367	739,716	12,937	685,824
Electric machinery, apparatus and appliances . . . . .	—		441,307		266,659		294,381
Passenger Cars . . . . .	no. ton	721 794	413,068	593 659	335,173	457 500	244,765
Chassis with engines mounted . . . . .	no. ton	638 1,712	557,367	288 657	266,289	286 628	248,611



## Chapter 6 : Production

### LAND UTILISATION AND TENURE

THE total area of Sierra Leone is 27,925 square miles of which the land area is 27,800 square miles. This may be classified as follows :

	<i>Sq. Miles</i>
Arable land . . . . .	14,138
Land for growing tree crops . . . . .	}
Permanent meadow and pasture . . . . .	8,500
Wood or forest land . . . . .	1,162
Swamp land . . . . .	2,500
All other land . . . . .	1,500

The country may roughly be divided into the following vegetational zones :

- (a) the coastal belt, characterised by tidal mangrove swamps and riverain grasslands. In the Scarcies area the mangrove swamps and in the Bonthe area the riverain grasslands have been extensively developed for rice farming ;
- (b) the high forest area in the south-east where cocoa and coffee cultivation are of major importance ;
- (c) the central and south-west areas of secondary bush, often with numerous wild oil palms interspersed, with many small inland swamps ;
- (d) the derived Guinea savannah area of the north—orchard savannah and tall grass with some inland swamps and flood plains where most of the cattle population is found.

The traditional farming system on the undulating uplands is one of shifting cultivation with bush, mainly secondary, being cleared for farming once in five to ten years. This is a wasteful method and with a steady increase in the population is leading to overfarming in some areas. No satisfactory rotation of crops in the high rainfall areas of West Africa has yet been found, despite continuous experimentation for over a quarter of a century. The aim of the Department of Agriculture is therefore to achieve correct land use and thus to encourage the annual farming of inland, riverain and mangrove swamps as alternatives to the uplands ; also to encourage the planting of permanent tree crops such as oil palms, cocoa, coffee, and citrus on the uplands. The possibilities of utilising upland pastures in conjunction with cattle for soil rejuvenation are being investigated as long-term programme.

As will be seen from the statistics of principal crops on p. 38, the staple food is rice. Much of this production still comes from the



uplands, but the trend is towards increased production from swamps and less from the uplands and this is being encouraged by controlled drainage and mechanised cultivation of the swamp lands, the gradual clearance and cultivation of large areas of mangrove, and the organised cultivation of the numerous inland swamps. In this way it should be possible, eventually, to make full use of these alternative potential production areas to relieve the pressure on the uplands.

The 1955-6 rice crop was considerably better than that for 1954-5, but total production was below the average for previous years. The 1956-7 crop is about the same as for 1955-6, despite a decrease in the total area of upland farms arising from migration of farmers to diamond mining. This is due to increased planting of swamp areas.

As in 1955 all agricultural work was affected by the migration of large numbers of farmers away from farming to diamond mining, but to a larger extent than before. Diversion of the farming population continued and this led to a reduction in the production of food crops and certain export crops. The production of palm kernels continued to decline, although to a much lesser degree than in 1955, and the export of palm oil and groundnuts virtually ceased, as all were consumed locally. Ginger and benniseed exports also decreased.

Coffee is rapidly developing into an important export crop and considerable areas have been planted throughout the country in recent years. The expansion of cacao in the high forest areas goes ahead steadily, although less cacao than coffee has been planted recently. Piassava retains an important place amongst exports but the quantity exported is not likely to expand much further owing to a rather inelastic demand. The wild oil palm is abundant throughout the southern areas but, with two exceptions, large oil palm plantations do not exist. Large numbers of oil palm seedlings of improved varieties are being distributed to farmers every year. Power nut-crackers and pioneer oil mills have been introduced to mechanise processing.

Land and water resources are conserved by declaring forest reserves and protected forests, and by chiefdom bye-laws under sections 8 and 16 of the Tribal Authorities Ordinance. Details of other proposed projects will be found in the *Report on Soil Conservation and Land Use in Sierra Leone* (Sessional Paper No. 1 of 1951).

The law regulating the ownership of land in the Protectorate is to be found in the Protectorate Land Ordinance, Cap. 186 of the Laws of Sierra Leone. This Ordinance declares that all land in the Protectorate is vested in the tribal authorities and lays down conditions under which non-natives may occupy land. The principal provision is that which restricts the interest which a non-native can hold to a term not exceeding 21 years. In order further to safeguard the rights of the indigenous people, the Summary Ejectment (Protectorate) Ordinance, Cap. 227 of the Laws of Sierra Leone, provides

a simplified form of procedure for the removal of a non-native who unlawfully occupies Protectorate land.

The radical title to land in the whole of the Protectorate is vested in the indigenous inhabitants. From this are derived leaseholds under which the Government, trading firms and others may occupy certain areas of limited extent. Mining companies, also, occupy land for terms of years by virtue of mining leases, the conditions of which are governed by the Minerals Ordinance, Cap. 144 of the Laws of Sierra Leone. The areas occupied by the Government and by commercial and mining interests are inconsiderable compared with the extent of the Protectorate as a whole.

Details of land tenure, apart from the leasehold tenure described in the previous paragraph, vary among the different tribes.

Local Development programmes related to the use and ownership of land and water resources are arranged in discussion with the tribal authorities concerned. At present they principally concern the utilisation of tidal and inland swamp land for the improved cultivation of rice, and for the most part are on a small scale.

No provision exists for permanent settlement by non-natives in the Protectorate. Africans may settle on land on such terms as are provided for by native law and custom in the chieftdom in which they wish to settle.

#### AGRICULTURE

THE area and average production of the principal crops grown for local consumption and export are as follows :

<i>Crops</i>	<i>Area (in acres)</i>	<i>Estimated Production in 1956 (tons)</i>
Rice (as paddy) (a) (b)	645,000	242,000
Millet and Sorghum (c)	37,000	24,000
Maize (c)	20,000	8,000
Groundnuts (undecorticated)	15,000	3,800
Chillies	n.a.	1,200
Bananas and Plantains	n.a.	n.a.
Cassava	45,000	48,000
Sweet potatoes and yams	10,000	9,500
Coconuts	4,000	n.a.
Coffee (mainly Robusta)	n.a.	3,000
Cocoa	n.a.	2,300
Kola	n.a.	2,000
Fibres—Piassava	n.a.	5,244 ( <i>exported</i> )
Ginger	n.a.	1,120
Benniseed (c)	n.a.	200
Palm Kernels	n.a.	57,645 ( <i>exported</i> )
Palm (pericarp) oil	n.a.	28,000

(a) Conversion factor paddy to clean rice : 60 per cent.

(b) The rice crop year is from 1st March to 28th February.

(c) Mixed cropping.



The yields per acre are very variable. Production is mainly by individual farmers working on their own and particular crops are not confined to any one section of the community.

#### AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT

THE headquarters of the Department is at Njala. The country is divided into seven agricultural circles, each in charge of an agricultural officer. In most cases a second agricultural officer or agricultural superintendent is attached to the circle. The circle is usually sub-divided into units of three chiefdoms, each unit being the responsibility of an Agricultural Instructor under whom there may be Junior Instructors or District Council and Native Administration demonstrators.

Departmental policy can be summarised as follows :  
“to secure the best use of the land by conserving the productivity and fertility of the soil whilst developing food crops and livestock for the people and surplus crops for export.”

The main agricultural stations are :

*Regional Rice Research Station, Rokupr*, on the Great Scarcies, where research on rice breeding, rice soils and allied subjects is carried out.

*Mussaia Animal Husbandry Station* in the derived Guinea savannah area in Koinadugu District in the north. Work is aimed at selecting and breeding a strain of the local trypanosomiasis-resistant Ndama cattle which will be early maturing with a good carcase weight and of regular breeding habit. Work on pastures, poultry and settling the local nomadic owners is also carried out.

*Njala Experimental Farm* in the secondary bush area. Work is concerned with annual crops, pigs and poultry.

*Newton Experimental Farm* in the Colony. Work is mainly concerned with pigs and poultry.

*Horticultural Station* at Lumley, near Freetown, for experimental work on horticultural crops and the provision of planting materials.

In 1954 certain agricultural departmental schemes were taken over by District Councils. These, with their own economic development plans financed by grants from Government funds, have been carried out by staff assigned or transferred from this Department and junior staff recruited locally under the general direction and advice of departmental officers. Wherever possible, successfully established schemes such as improved oil palm planting, inland swamp clearance, mangrove clearance, ox ploughing, production and provision of planting materials, including cacao and coffee, have been handed over with staff and finance. In many cases, District Councils have accepted responsibility, and schemes, particularly



those in connection with nurseries, have worked out well. In others, owing to the shortage of funds and inefficient administration, certain schemes have been taken back by the Department. The final aim is that local administrations should run their own simple agricultural affairs and the Department assume an advisory role, allowing it to concentrate on experimental work and the establishment of further schemes.

### *Development Schemes*

The main agricultural development schemes are described below :

*Rice.* The extensive southern riverain grasslands and the north central flood plains, or Boli lands, are estimated to total some 300,000 acres. Successful preliminary trials were carried out in 1949 and 1950, field schemes were established, and, in 1952, 2,100 acres were cultivated. Cultivation was expanded and in 1955 over 10,000 acres were cultivated, rising in 1956 to over 12,000 acres. A series of departmental mechanical sub-stations have been established during the last three years to provide the necessary repair facilities.

Work is now done on contract for farmers since District Councils lack facilities for fee collection. Some 70 heavy tractors and their ancillary equipment, including a small landing craft, are involved in this work. It is now arranged that farmers, through Co-operative Societies, take up well-established sites and cultivate them with their own tractors, allowing the Department to expand into new areas and carry out more experimental work. Intensive investigational work and trials were carried out with funds from the United Kingdom and a soil survey of the northern Boli lands was to start in 1957. These areas are less fertile than those in the south, which are naturally fertile, and several problems remain to be solved.

Whilst most of the mangrove areas which can be cultivated in the Scarcies area have been felled and brought into use, large tracts remain in the south. In this area a loan scheme for clearing was started in 1938-39 and this, in various modified forms, has continued. In 1953 the work was handed over to District Councils when it was estimated that some 8,500 acres had been cleared. Felling continues but on a more limited scale than before, due to the migration of farmers to mining.

The empoldering of saline swamps is concentrated in the saline mangrove areas of the Scarcies and the Colony. A total of 890 acres is now empoldered, 500 acres of which have been prepared by excavators as a pilot scheme. Before further expansion takes place the economics of this method of rice cultivation require careful study, but subject to its economic practicability considerable areas could be reclaimed for rice growing by this means. In the Scarcies, the empolders have been taken over by the Kambia District Council. Some 1,000 acres of peat swamps were successfully reclaimed some years ago in the Scarcies area by the construction of drains to allow

free fresh water tidal wash. Plans are in hand to reclaim a further 5,000 acres during the next few years.

Ox ploughing is confined to certain cattle areas in the north. Much of the demand has now been fulfilled and the population is more interested in tractors.

Inland swamp clearance schemes have rapidly expanded, under their own momentum, from pilot schemes established by the Department. District Councils have helped with grants and loans and in the north, particularly, there has been a very marked increase in this type of farming.

*Regional Rice Research Station, Rokupr.* The research programme in rice breeding and the study of rice soils, with particular reference to mangrove soils, continued and several technical papers were published. Improved rice varieties continue to be multiplied and distributed and a large collection of more than 440 rice varieties from sources throughout the world has been built up. Work is also being carried out on arboricides for killing mangroves and on crab control. Officers visit Nigeria, Ghana, Gambia, and French Guinea as is required, to investigate and advise on rice growing problems in these territories.

*Oil Palms.* The most important work of the Department in regard to tree crops is the country-wide oil palm campaign and some 100,000 seedlings are now being distributed annually. The main oil palm nursery is at Njala where there is a modern germinator and an overhead irrigation system is installed. All other stations have oil palm nurseries and there are many others run by District Councils supervised by departmental staff. The research officer from the main station of the West African Institute for Oil Palm Research in Nigeria, temporarily posted to Sierra Leone, continues work on the establishment of a sub-station at Njala.

*Cacao and Coffee.* Increased planting was encouraged in suitable areas. Owing to the high price of coffee much more of this crop was planted than of cacao. Experiments towards obtaining high quality cacao continued, particularly on the best methods of fermentation. With the stimulus of a price differential for the various cacao grades, the farmers made efforts to improve quality, which continued to be very much higher than before 1954. A cacao and coffee experimental station was to be established in 1957.

*Piassava.* This is a valuable localized industry and production remained high. Quality was quite good and field officers continued to assist by demonstration and instruction in the best methods of preparation. Investigational work continued at the small Piassava Experimental Station in Bonthe District.

*Fertilizers.* Experiments continued and demonstration plots, which many farmers visited, were laid down throughout the country.



Superphosphate stands out as the main soil improver, especially for swamp rice. Sales of superphosphate continued and it is likely the demand will increase steadily ; fertilizers for food crop production are subsidised. Experiments on trace elements also continued.

*Livestock and Poultry.* The Animal Husbandry Station at Musaia, in the main cattle area, continues to be the chief centre for investigating the local Ndama breed, for studying management and pasture improvement, and for disseminating knowledge and practical assistance to the surrounding cattle owners. Work is at present being concentrated on selection and breeding for an earlier maturing and larger carcase weight animal which breeds regularly. The herd now numbers over 230. Extension work includes a scheme to settle the nomadic cattle owners, mainly Fulas. By the end of 1956 some 35 areas, each of one square mile, had been settled and help was given to establish small dams, improve water supplies and pastures and to initiate soil conservation measures.

Other stations with cattle are Newton and Njala where selection and good management are improving the herds. Newton continued to be the main pig centre, stocked with Large Whites and Wessex Saddlebacks. The policy of importing a few good boars annually from the United Kingdom continues. Piggeries were completed at Njala and Newton and stocks increased. Small local piggeries continue to flourish in the Colony area in particular, despite a shortage of feeding stuffs due to a general decrease in surplus food crops. In 1956 for the first time no pork was imported and the local supplies were adequate. The poultry stocks on all stations were increased, new buildings were erected and additional equipment was obtained. The policy of importing day-old pedigree chicks by air from the United Kingdom continued. Experiments with the deep litter system have been very successful at Newton and Njala. Public demand is heavy and the aim now is to increase production to meet it. Muscovy ducks and Chinese geese continued to thrive.

*Horticulture.* Work amongst the Colony market gardeners continued. Demonstration hill and valley gardens have been established, showing the value of terracing, irrigation, improved varieties, fertilizers, insecticides, and new types of gardening machinery. Lectures, demonstrations and an horticultural show were again organized and publications prepared for distribution amongst local growers. Stocks of budded citrus and other fruit trees have been built up to meet the large local demand.

*Research.* Apart from fundamental rice research at the Rice Research Station, Rokupr, departmental research was devoted to soils, soil fertility and fertilizers and taxonomic studies of Sierra Leone fungi. In addition, work was initiated on the control of Black Pod disease of cacao. A booklet, *Diseases of Cultivated Plants in Sierra Leone*, was published.



## ANIMAL HEALTH

THERE has never been any accurate census of the livestock population in Sierra Leone. The number of cattle, which was greatly reduced during the disastrous rinderpest epizootic of 1949, is gradually increasing, and the total number is now probably in the neighbourhood of 150,000. This increase is primarily due to the greater security felt by the Fula cattle owners for their herds as a result of the disease control measures which have been carried out in recent years by the Veterinary Department. Fula settlement schemes have also encouraged these people to foresake their semi-nomadic existence and to settle, with their cattle, in Sierra Leone, thus increasing the national herd. The majority of the cattle are to be found, under Fula ownership in the Northern Province. Prior to 1949 many thousands of cattle were also kept in the Kono District of the South Eastern Province, but memories of the losses suffered from rinderpest during that year, together with an increased interest in illicit diamond mining, have discouraged the people there from attempting to rebuild their herds. There are probably about 5,000 pigs in the country and this number is increasing mainly because of the encouragement and assistance being given to District Councils to build piggeries. Unlike the local Ndama cattle however, pigs are susceptible to trypanosomiasis, which in certain circumstances can constitute a considerable hazard to successful pig rearing in Sierra Leone. The number of sheep and goats has been estimated at 10,000 and 21,500 respectively.

The estimated number of animals slaughtered for human consumption during 1956 was : cattle 7,646, sheep 126, goats 344 and pigs 457.

*Diseases*

As in former years the main concern of the Department was the control of rinderpest and a total of 30,729 cattle were immunised against this disease with Lapinised Rinderpest Virus during the year. The absence of rinderpest in Sierra Leone for the third year running is largely due to the annual immunisation campaigns of recent years. Sierra Leone has a relatively large land frontier across which disease can enter and as it is not possible to control it effectively the only certain way of excluding rinderpest is to keep the cattle of the country immune.

Outbreaks of contagious bovine pleuro-pneumonia continued to occur in the frontier districts during the year. Two small outbreaks near Falaba and Kondembaia were quickly suppressed, but in November several herds were found to be affected in the Sulima and Mongo Chiefdoms close to the French Guinea frontier. By the end of the year this rather more extensive outbreak had been brought under control. The insidious nature of this disease makes quick notification and diagnosis very difficult and constant vigilance is

necessary to prevent any extensive spread into the main cattle-rearing areas of the country.

The permanent infection of the soil in the Kamakwie area with the spores of anthrax bacilli necessitated the declaration of the Sela Limba Chiefdom an infected area during most of the year. All cattle, sheep and goats in the chiefdom were vaccinated against anthrax and all trade cattle from French Guinea were vaccinated and quarantined for ten days in Kamakwie.

Newcastle disease of poultry is very prevalent in Sierra Leone and the demand for vaccination against this disease is steadily growing, over 55,000 birds being vaccinated in 1956 compared with 22,000 in 1955.

#### VETERINARY DEPARTMENT

DURING the year the first Sierra Leonean to qualify as a veterinary surgeon returned from the United Kingdom and was appointed to the Department's permanent establishment which consists now of the Director, one Senior Veterinary Officer, two Veterinary Officers and one Laboratory Superintendent. The latter post is now also held by a Sierra Leonean, as Laboratory Superintendent-in-training.

The main function of the Department continues to be the control of disease. Provided the Department can control the major epizootics for the next few years there will undoubtedly be a big rise in the cattle population ; it is essential that this increase should be absorbed into the southern parts of the country to relieve pressure in the Northern Province. Already there are signs in the Koinadugu District of limited over-stocking and overgrazing and it is possible to foresee the day when soil erosion will begin unless the surplus cattle can be introduced into the many areas in the south where excellent grazing exists. The problem is largely an administrative one and if the Fula Settlement scheme in the Northern Province which gives cattle owners certain rights of land tenure, proves successful (see p. 42), it may be possible for District Councils and Co-operative Societies to persuade the people in the southern areas to accept the Fula into their lands or to start keeping cattle themselves. Work is continuing at Musaia Livestock Improvement Farm and eventually it should be possible to supply improved breeding stock. This is, however, a long-term policy and the pressing need is to get more cattle into the south as quickly as possible. It is the Department's first duty to see that these cattle are healthy because nothing will retard progress more than the fear of disease.

The work of the animal husbandry stations is described on p. 42.

#### FORESTRY

THE basic problem for the increase of the forest estate is one common to many African territories. Despite the progress being made towards the introduction of a more intensive stable agriculture, the fact



remains that the vast majority of farmers still rely on the bush fallow system, which absorbs ten times as much or more land than is required for actual cultivation each year. In the Protectorate the average density of population is already 68 per square mile and is fairly evenly distributed. In consequence there is very little natural high forest left, the vegetation on by far the greatest part of the country being secondary regrowth—"farm bush"—of varying ages.

The net result is that land for forestry is generally hard to find. Most of the sizeable areas of natural high forest have already been reserved, but the total is below what is required for productive purposes and the problem of moving population out of the required areas has held up the protective reservation so necessary in the interests of water and soil conservation.

The outlook is however not entirely unfavourable. A massive expansion of agricultural production in the swamplands, together with industrial development, would automatically relieve the general pressure on land, provided that such changes kept ahead of population increases. There are signs that alluvial diamond mining is having this effect, although its extent is not fully known.

In these circumstances and taking into account the shortage of professional staff, the emphasis has been on developing the management of the existing forest estate with the aim of ensuring maximum production in accordance with the principle of the sustained yield. If, when this is within sight of being attained, the production capacity of the forest estate is still below foreseeable requirements, then the prospects of supplementing it by afforestation will be considered. Nevertheless concentration on the management of the existing forest estate has not meant the total neglect of reservation, which is fostered whenever there is sufficient local interest.

Increases in the forest estate in 1956 amounted to 37.5 square miles of Forest Reserve and 11.4 square miles of Protected Forest. In Protected Forests some 849 acres were planted up (572 acres in 1955) and 132 acres were planted in Forest Reserves (314 acres in 1955). The decrease in planting in Reserves was more than offset by an increase in the area treated by operations designed to encourage natural regeneration. Arboricides (tree poisons) which are sprayed on the bark of unwanted weed trees came into general use and met with considerable success. This method will it is hoped show considerable saving in labour over the previous method of girdling the weed trees.

## *Production*

With the exception of one private firm, primary production of mill-sawn timber is carried out by the Forestry Department. A certain amount of sawn timber is imported by Government departments for their own use and by some commercial firms, also for their own use and for resale. All timber locally produced and imported is used internally.

The primary producing units are the Katema Sawmills Ltd., a company incorporated in Sierra Leone with a concession in a Forest Reserve in the South Eastern Province, and the Forest Industries Branch of the Forestry Department at Kenema. During 1956, production of sawn timber from the former amounted to some 61,000 cubic feet and from the latter 195,000 cubic feet. Over 30 species are utilized in the Forestry Department Sawmill but the greater proportion consists of *Brachystegia leonensis*, *Chlorophora regia*, *Fagara macrophylla*, *Lophira alata*, *Nauclea* (*Sarcocephalus*) *diderrichii*, *Piptadenia africana*, *Tarrietia utilis* and *Terminalia ivorensis*.

A number of firms are engaged in the production of furniture and other manufactured woodwork among which are the construction and Furniture Co. (W.A.) Ltd., operating in Freetown and using for the most part imported timbers from the other West African territories, Messrs. Faremi Works, Freetown, and the West African Trading and Industrial Co. Ltd., Freetown. Various Government departments maintain woodworking shops to provide for Government requirements and the Forestry Department in its Forest Industries Branch Woodworking Shop at Kenema produced during 1956 furniture and manufactured woodwork of various kinds to the value of £37,000 for Government departments, public institutions, schools and private customers.

*Minor Forest Products.* Charcoal is kilned from wood waste at the Forestry Department Sawmill and the surplus is exported to the United Kingdom. There is also a considerable local trade in charcoal produced by traditional methods.

#### THE FORESTRY DEPARTMENT

THE established staff of the Department comprised :

The Chief Conservator

##### *Conservation Branch*

- 1 Conservator
- 2 Senior Assistant Conservators of Forests
- 8 Assistant Conservators of Forests (1 in abeyance, 4 vacant)
- 4 Forest Assistants
- 57 Junior Officers (pensionable) (6 vacant)
- 54 Junior Officers (non-pensionable) (5 vacant)

##### *Industries Branch*

- 1 Conservator
- 1 Forest Engineer
- 2 Chief Supervisors of Forest Works
- 5 Supervisors of Forest Works
- 1 Assistant Supervisor of Forest Works
- 20 Junior Officers (pensionable) (2 vacant)
- 3 Junior Officers (non-pensionable) (vacant)



During the past few years much emphasis has been put on organisation and staff structure. Considerable progress has been made with organisation and a scheme of service is now drawn up which lays down the department's staff and training requirements. This scheme deals with the staff organisation and the types of established post required, and indicates the appropriate grading and training.

The Chief Conservator proceeded on retirement leave in September and a relief was not forthcoming within the year : the two Senior Assistant Conservators were transferred and the staff position in the Conservation Branch was the most critical for many years. Fortunately the Industries Branch was fully established, although the more attractive salaries paid by commercial enterprise continue to tempt members of it. Owing to the lack of conservation staff it was not possible to hold the usual combined Ranger and Forest Guard training course in 1956.

#### FISHERIES

WITH the exception of four privately-owned European ocean-going fishing craft, sea fishing is necessarily confined to inshore waters and estuaries. The fish most sought after is "bonga" (*Ethmalosa fimbriata*), large shoals of which are found in the shallow coastal waters at certain seasons of the year. Fishing for "bonga" is carried out with cast nets worked from large dug-out canoes. Other fishing methods used include beach seine nets, hand-lines fished from canoes, and fish ponds or fences.

The supply of fish in the Freetown area in particular has been enhanced by the catches of the four privately-owned English and Italian trawlers at present fishing off Sierra Leone. These catches are particularly welcome to consumers during the rainy season when supplies by local fishermen are usually inadequate.

Rivers and lakes are fished to the limit of their potential and yield a useful seasonal catch. No estimate of such landings has been attempted but the quantity obtained from this source falls far short of the needs of the people in the interior.

Statistics are not available of numbers engaged in the fishing industry or of numbers of boats, canoes, seine nets and fish fences. A very rough estimate of total landings of sea fish is 5,000 tons a year.

The fishing industry is virtually controlled by the fish traders (almost invariably women), who provide the capital required for the purchase of gear and other expenses. This is repaid by the fishermen in kind from their catches. Marketing is done almost entirely by these traders who take delivery of the fish as soon as it is landed, the whole of the catches being sold locally. Little use is made of refrigeration in the distribution of fish and processing is confined to the drying and smoking of fish intended for sale in the interior.

Prices vary greatly and it is generally accepted that the traders make excessive profits, ranging from 100 to 200 per cent. The quan-

tity of fish caught falls far short of the needs of the country and, with rising standards of living, the demand is increasing.

Experimental work was done by the West African Fisheries Research Institute, which has its headquarters in Freetown and which operates a modern fishery research vessel. Surveys so far carried out indicate that there are fishing grounds which could be worked by trawlers within reach of all the West African territories. With few exceptions, it has been found that bottom fish of economic importance are confined to depths of less than 20 fathoms. The Institute has demonstrated in local waters the potentialities of small powered craft of the surf-boat type for inshore fishing and has determined the breeding season of "bonga."

#### MINING

Rights to prospect and mine are granted by the Governor on behalf of the Crown, in which the minerals are vested.

Prospecting is permitted under a prospecting right or under an exclusive prospecting licence granted for a term of one year. The holder of the prospecting right may prospect for the mineral for which the right is granted over any part of Sierra Leone which has not been closed to prospecting. He may also apply for an exclusive prospecting licence which reserves to him the sole right to prospect within a specified area for the mineral specified therein. The licence is granted upon payment of a fee of £5 per square mile per annum and is renewable annually up to a maximum of three years in the case of a licence granted for prospecting for an alluvial mineral and of six years when it is for a lode mineral.

Mining may be done under a mining right or lease. A mining right is granted to enable the working of small stream deposits of an area not exceeding 880 yards along the stream and within 100 yards from its centre. It is granted for a year and is renewable. The fee is 20s. per 100 yards annually. A mining lease may be granted to mine either alluvial or lode deposits and may be over any area for any term varying from five to ninety-nine years. Mining leases and mining rights confer the exclusive right to enter upon the land to mine and dispose of the minerals specified in the lease or right, upon payment of royalty, mineral and surface rents.

There are also provisions for natives of Sierra Leone to obtain licences for mining gold or diamonds in chiefdoms that have been declared Alluvial Gold Mining Areas or Alluvial Diamond Mining Areas.



## Production

The following table gives the total export of minerals and their value in 1955 and 1956.

Mineral	1955		1956	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Gold (oz.) . . .	241	£ 2,542	452	£ 4,741
Diamond (crt.) . . .	401,423	1,400,478	647,797	3,467,385
Iron Ore (tons) . . .	1,331,573	3,709,595	1,328,019	4,003,016
Chromite (tons) . . .	17,750	192,331	18,774	194,630
Columbite (tons) . . .	3	7,558	—	—

*Gold.* Only 452 ounces of gold were exported during the year as both the Yemen Company Limited and Mr. Woehrling suspended operations during the year and the native miners transferred their activities to the mining of diamonds under the Alluvial Diamond Mining Scheme.

*Chromite.* This was first discovered in Sierra Leone by the Geological Survey Department in 1929 and deposits are at present being worked by the Sierra Leone Chrome Mines Company at Ngelehun, near Hangha in the Kenema District. During 1956 production continued by underground methods, the total production being 12,815 tons lump ore and 7,727 tons concentrates. The company continued to prospect for further deposits in the area of their special exclusive prospecting licence.

*Iron Ore.* This is found in several districts and large deposits of known economic importance exist in the Marampa Chiefdom of the Port Loko District and in the mountains between Sokoya and Saka-sakala on the eastern bank of the Tonkolili river in the Tonkolili District. The ore is mined by the Sierra Leone Development Company in the Marampa chiefdom from two deposits on the Ghafal and Masaboin Hills. During the year two grades were produced, these being "red ore" which is hard lateritic haematite in lump form and is now almost worked out, and "powder ore" which is concentrated from the underlying schists. Work was continued by this company on surveys for the future exploitation of the very extensive iron ore deposits in the Tonkolili area.

*Diamonds.* These were produced by the Sierra Leone Selection Trust (which holds a monopoly for prospecting, production and marketing of diamonds over an area amounting to about 500 square miles in the Kono and Kenema Districts) and by individual miners under the Alluvial Diamond Mining Scheme. The diamonds are all mined from alluvial deposits over a large area of the south-east

of the Protectorate. The Trust excavates the gravel by mechanical earth-moving equipment and transports it by dumpers or endless rope haulage to be concentrated in pan plants, of which nine have been erected and eight were working throughout the year. The individual miners work almost entirely by hand methods.

*Titanium-bearing Minerals.* Prospecting for these began in 1955 when the British Titan Products Company, whose representatives had arrived in Sierra Leone towards the end of 1954, was granted a special exclusive prospecting licence of about 2,300 square miles in the Pujehun, Bonthe and Bo districts of the South-Western Province. The company increased its prospecting programme continuously during the year and applied for one special mining lease over an area of about 15 square miles in the Moyamba district.

### *The Mines Department*

Generally the Mines Department advised the government on all matters affecting mining and mining policy and was responsible for the administration of the Minerals Ordinance and the Machinery (Safe Working and Inspection) Ordinance and their connected rules. The Department inquired into all accidents reported under these Ordinances and was also responsible for the licensing of explosives magazines for mining purposes and for the examining and granting to applicants of certificates of competence to handle explosives.

The senior staff of the Mines Department consisted of the Chief Inspector of Mines, two Assistant Chief Inspectors, one Inspector of Mines, and three Area Superintendents.

### GEOLOGICAL SURVEYS

The senior service staff of the Geological Surveys Department at the end of 1956 consisted of the Director, Assistant Director, five geologists, one mining geologist, one prospector, one diamond driller and one temporary part-time cartographer. One temporary geologist left the Geological Survey on the completion of his contract and this post and two other posts for geologists are vacant. A prospector was appointed in December to fill a post which had been vacant since March, 1955. Mr. A. H. Gabisi, formerly on the junior technical staff of the Department, rejoined the Survey in March, on his return from study leave in the United Kingdom, as its first African geologist.

The main work of the Geological Survey during the year under review was the completion of the geological mapping of the schist belt of the Kangari Hills. The mapping was based on topographical maps prepared in the Department from aerial photographs on the scale of 1 : 32,000. The geological maps are being re-drawn in the Department on this scale for sending to the Directorate of Overseas Surveys at Tolworth, Surrey, England, where they will be reduced for printing and publication on the scale 1 : 50,000. The Sula Mountains



—Kangari Hills schist belt has been covered by five geological map sheets. These each occupy 20 minutes of longitude by 15 minutes of latitude. At the end of 1956 the first two of these five sheets were in the hands of the printers, the third was ready for sending to Tolworth and the remaining two were in course of preparation in Sierra Leone.

A start was made in the vicinity of Hangha with the geological mapping of the schist belt of the Kambui Hills. Geological mapping was also begun in the Gola Forest area to the south-east of Kenema. It is proposed to prepare and publish geological maps of these areas in units coincident with the existing topographical sheets but on a scale of 1 : 50,000.

Professor Dunham of Durham University submitted to the Department a detailed report on the work carried out by him and Mr. R. Phillips in 1953 and 1954 on the chromite deposits near N'gelehun.

The Department carried out a number of geological investigations of the sites of engineering projects. Twenty-two holes were sunk by Banka drill to investigate the nature of the foundations of the site for the proposed road bridge across the river Tabe at Bumpe. Forty-eight holes were sunk by Banka drill or Empire drill to investigate the site proposed for the bridge to carry the Kenema—Segbwema road across the river Male. A report on each site was submitted to the Director of Public Works. Four Banka drill holes were sunk near Granville Brook to examine the foundations of the piers for the new bridge on the realignment of the railway and a report was submitted to the Chief Engineer. Pits or drill holes were sunk on seven sites to investigate their suitability for the foundations of the new Post Office building, and of several new school and other buildings which are being planned in the Freetown area. Two diamond drill holes were sunk at the request of the Resident Engineer to investigate the nature of the rock at the base of the valve shaft at the end of the lower inlet tunnel at Guma Water. Two Banka drill holes were sunk at the request of the Admiralty to investigate the nature of foundations at Jui. Some detailed geological mapping of the area south-west of the Regent-Charlotte motor road was undertaken to obtain some indication of the possibility of further landslides in this area and to determine the extent of the Charlotte fault which gives rise to the landslides. The work showed that land slides may occur during the height of the wet season on to the Regent Road, particularly on the Charlotte landslide itself and from an ancient landslide immediately to its west.

The Survey spent six weeks carrying out reconnaissance prospecting within the Special Exclusive Prospecting Licence held by the Sierra Leone Selection Trust, Limited, but outside the areas held by mining lease, to determine which areas were suitable under the terms of an agreement with the Company for surrender to the Government for opening up under the licensed alluvial diamond mining scheme.

A gravity survey was carried out by Dr. M. P. H. Bott of Durham University over a series of grids cut by the Survey near Rokell, Benguema and Russell over the assumed position of the buried contact between the base of the gabbro intrusion and the rocks into which it was intruded. His findings indicated a low dipping contact and this was borne out by subsequent diamond drilling in the Benguema area. During the gravity survey, readings were taken at a total of 267 stations. Of these the Department determined the heights of 197 stations by direct levelling and the heights of 42 stations were supplied by other Departments. The geographicals of all stations were determined by traversing and measurement off pre-existing maps and plans.

A diamond drill hole was sunk at Yema close to the excavation from which lignite had been mined for experimental purposes. The hole proved a thickness of 275 feet of sands and clays at that point resting on granitic gneisses of the Kasila System. No other seam of lignite was met.

Mr. A. L. Mather, a bursar from the Geochemical Prospecting Research Centre, London, spent six months of 1956 working in Sierra Leone examining the metal dispersion patterns in the vicinity of the known mineralised areas near Dalakuru, the Yirisen, Baomahun and the chromite areas. In this work he was accompanied and assisted by Mr. Huhta, mining geologist. A comprehensive report on the results of this work and the application of geochemical methods of prospecting in Sierra Leone was to be submitted by the Research Centre later in 1957.

The Department's laboratory staff continued its investigations of rock and mineral specimens submitted by geologists and the general public. Numerous parcels of stones seized by the Police were submitted to the Department for identification of diamond, and standard certificates of examination and identification acceptable to the Courts were given by the Director or the Assistant Director.

#### CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

Despite difficulties due to shortage of supervising staff, 1956 was a year of steady expansion. The number of co-operative societies increased to 264 and the business done by them to about £250,000, as compared with 207 and £202,000 in 1955.

An important new development was the undertaking of mechanised rice farming by co-operatively owned machinery. In a small pilot scheme undertaken during the cultivation season (January to May, 1956) nearly 1,500 acres were cultivated by means of six Ferguson tractors and harrows. The income earned was £1,456, which after allowing for depreciation and working expenses showed a satisfactory surplus. A full-scale trial by 22 tractors, ploughing as well as harrowing over an area of about 3,000 acres, was planned for the coming season ; the equipment was already in the country and the work was beginning according to plan. It was expected



that the use of this co-operatively-owned machinery would set free equipment of the Department of Agriculture, which will be used for the reclaiming of a similar area of uncultivated land. If the larger-scale experiment is successful, the process will be extended from year to year to the considerable areas available for reclamation.

### *Marketing Societies*

Co-operative rice marketing also expanded. The four tractor-owning societies and 18 others were engaged in this work, and marketed rice to the value of £34,000 ; there were a number of applications for the formation of more societies of the kind and it was hoped that the turnover would be doubled in 1957.

Societies for marketing cocoa and coffee are the main strength of the co-operative movement in Sierra Leone. The percentage of the country's cocoa marketed co-operatively rose in 1955-6 from 21 to 26 and is still rising. The number of societies engaged in marketing cocoa and coffee at the end of the year was 108 and during 1956 they marketed produce to the value of some £117,000—this despite somewhat discouraging falls in price. A Union of societies was formed to provide reliable transport for member societies and worked its own lorry successfully for half the year. A scheme was also approved for encouraging the extension of cocoa farms by means of medium-term loans given through co-operative societies, to the extent of 500 acres in the first experimental year.

Despite price fluctuations there was some expansion of piassava marketing and the value marketed rose from about £13,500 in 1955 to about £17,000 in 1956. There was also some expansion in co-operative fish marketing, and the societies in Moyamba District formed a Union for the provision of transport ; the Union owns a lorry and will it is hoped develop the scheme further.

### *Rural Credit*

The importance of co-operative rural credit can hardly be over-estimated. Its growth may be observed by the growth of the loans made by the Registrar to societies. The amount of the Government guarantee has been increased from £25,000 to £45,000, plus a further £25,000 for medium-term loans in connection with the mechanised rice cultivation scheme. The loans are widely appreciated and there have been no bad debts. The number of rural credit societies increased to 65 and there are five salary-earners' thrift and credit societies. The value of the work being done by rural credit societies has been recognised by the award of a Certificate of Honour to Mr. T. P. Momoh, Co-operative Inspector, Grade 1, who has been in charge of the most vigorous group of them.

### *The Co-operative Department*

The Department was strengthened by the appointment of two additional Assistant Registrars. There was a substantial degree of



Africanisation of senior posts during the year, one Assistant Registrar being appointed by promotion and two by direct recruitment of graduates from Fourah Bay College. One officer attended the training course for senior officers in East Africa and two are attending a course at the Co-operative College, Loughborough. Despite the increase in strength however, the chief limit on the rate of the expansion of the work is the availability of staff to supervise it.

## *Chapter 7 : Social Services*

### EDUCATION

MR. A. M. Margai continued as Minister of Local Government, Education and Welfare throughout 1956. The headquarters staff of the Education Department consisted of the Director of Education, the Assistant Director of Education (General), the Principal Education Officer, the Administrative Assistant, the Education Officer (Examinations) and the Departmental Secretary. The post of Assistant Director of Education (Technical) continued to be combined with that of Principal of the Freetown Technical Institute. A U.N.E.S.C.O. expert on teacher-training was attached to the headquarters office throughout the year.

In the Provinces, the process of devolving many of the Education Department's executive and administrative functions in respect of primary education upon the newly-established local education authorities was continued. This process, which is regarded as complementary to the establishment of a cadre of inspectors as replacements for Provincial Education Officers, would be still further accelerated if the financial difficulties facing local government bodies in Sierra Leone could be resolved. Under the existing interim arrangements all applicants for new primary schools and extensions to existing schools are dealt with by the local education authorities which prepare annual estimates for new buildings, repairs and maintenance of existing buildings, and school equipment. Each local education authority has a Supervising Teacher who is the authority's executive officer. The work of Supervising Teachers is directed by Education Secretaries who have been appointed on a provincial basis. One most important duty of these local government officers is the supervision of the collection of school fees.

In Freetown and the Rural Area of the Colony the existing position in primary education makes the transfer of functions to local authorities more complicated than in the Protectorate and during 1956 the Colony Education Office continued to function under the charge of the Senior Education Officer (Colony) as in previous years.

Educational policy is framed by the Minister of Education with



the advice of the Board of Education and its committees on secondary education and the training of teachers.

The existing close co-operation between the Government and the Missions, through the education secretaries, Roman Catholic Mission and United Christian Council, has been maintained.

### *Schools*

*Primary education* for children between 5+ and 12+ was given in 460 schools. The basic course is of six years' duration, but it is the Government's policy to add a seventh year as soon as accommodation and teachers become available. In the Colony, primary education is provided in "amalgamated" schools, assisted schools and unassisted schools. In the case of "amalgamated" schools the Churches or Missions make available the buildings, while funds for teachers' salaries, equipment and maintenance are provided by the Government, the expenditure being partly offset by income from school fees. In the Provinces, where education developed later, there are 3 government primary schools: the remaining 368 primary schools are managed by local authorities or voluntary agencies, the salaries of all teachers being met from government funds: a formula is in application under which certain local authorities refund to the Government a percentage of the salary bill. In 1956, 39 new primary schools opened in the Provinces and 2 in Freetown; the total increase in enrolment over the previous year was 7,086.

Statistics of primary schools are given on p. 60.

*Secondary education* for pupils between the ages of 12+ and 18+ was provided in 10 government and assisted schools in the Colony and in 11 schools in the Protectorate, 5 of which are government institutions. There were also 2 unaided schools. The majority of the secondary schools in the Provinces are classified as junior secondary schools, but it is planned to develop these into full secondary schools (i.e., to the level of the West African School Certificate) as soon as staff and buildings become available. The results of the School Certificate and Higher School Certificate examinations taken at the end of 1955, showed a slight improvement over those of the previous year. A notable event of the year was the inauguration at a girls' school, the Annie Walsh Memorial School, of a course leading to the Cambridge Higher School Certificate examination, the first girls' sixth form in the territory. This was rendered possible by the improved staffing situation at this school, but the general staffing problem remained as intractable as in previous years.

Statistics of secondary schools are shown on p. 60.

### *Teacher-Training*

The training of non-graduate teachers is undertaken in the teacher training department of Fourah Bay College and at five institutions in the Protectorate, viz., government colleges at Magburaka (co-

educational) and Njala, Roman Catholic Mission colleges at Bo (for men) and Kenema (for women) and the United Christian Council college at Bunumbu (co-educational). Students at Fourah Bay college are prepared for the Sierra Leone Teachers' Advanced Certificate (a three-year post-school certificate course) and the Teachers' Certificate, (a two-year course of training for students with some secondary education or a one-year post-Teachers' Elementary Certificate course of training for practising teachers). Fourah Bay College also provides supplementary courses for qualified teachers capable of deriving benefit from specialist training. In the Provinces all five colleges provide a three-year course leading to the Teachers' Elementary Certificate. The number of teachers in training was 566, which showed an increase of 72 on the figure for the preceding year (see p. 61).

### *University Education*

At the university level, Fourah Bay College has for many years offered degree courses in the liberal arts. The increasing need for men and women with scientific and technological training has imposed upon the college the need to develop a wider range of studies and the year 1956 has been marked academically by the expansion of the work of the faculty of pure science. In June 1956, candidates were presented for the first time for the first qualifying examination for the degree of B.Sc. (General) of the University of Durham. Of the 12 candidates presented for this examination, 11 passed. In the other faculties and departments of the college the year was one of consolidation. The examination results for the year were as follows :

<i>Examination</i>				<i>No. Entered</i>	<i>No. Passed</i>
B.A. (General)	1st examination	.	.	30	13
	2nd	„	.	16	13
	Final	„	.	29	15
B.A. (Economics)	1st	„	.	23	11
	2nd	„	.	16	12
	Final	„	.	6	5
B.Sc. (General)	1st	„	.	12	11
Diploma in Education	.	.	.	4	4
Diploma in Public Administration	.	.	.	.	.
	1st year	.	.	1	1
	2nd	„	.	1	0

The distribution of students is shown on p. 60.

### *Technical Education*

Development of technical education is hampered by the shortage of qualified staff, but nevertheless, the Freetown Technical Institute expanded its range of courses and instituted a course in telecommunications. At the branch institute at Kenema in the South-Eastern Province, which is residential, the first intake of students



took place early in the year and courses were provided at an elementary level in carpentry and masonry. The full enrolment in technical education in 1956 was as follows :

	<i>No. Enrolled</i>
Full-time technical students (engineering, carpentry, masonry, painting and decorating and telecommunications) . . . . .	187
Government clerks-in-training, including day-release students . . . . .	87
General Certificate of Education (London), (Ordinary level), full-time . . . . .	28
Evening class students in a variety of subjects both technical and academic . . . . .	1,605

### *Scholarships*

The Government continued its policy of awarding a large number of scholarships for secondary and higher education and for teacher-training. The number of scholarships held in 1956 (excluding those awarded by Government departments to members of their staff), was as follows :

	<i>1955</i>	<i>1956</i>
Teacher-training . . . . .	494	566*
Secondary education :		
tuition . . . . .	709	1,004†
boarding . . . . .	67	49§
Higher School Certificate studies at secondary schools . . . . .	24	46
Higher Education at Fourah Bay College and overseas . . . . .	891	1,058

\* Includes teachers on "study leave" and excludes 4 students taking the post-graduate Diploma.

† Excludes certain pupils at government secondary schools whose tuition fees are waived.

§ Excludes pupils at government secondary schools in the Protectorate for whom the Government meets the full cost of boarding.

### *Main Events*

Important events of the year included :

- (i) The announcement of the Secretary of State's agreement that Fourah Bay College should expand on its existing site on Mount Aureol and the planning of the first phase of the building programme (see pp. 9).
- (ii) The approval by the American International Co-operation Administration of substantial grants for buildings and equipment for the Technical Institutes and Fourah Bay College.
- (iii) The expansion of the activities of the U.N.E.S.C.O. technical assistance mission, including the posting to the territory of two science experts.

- (iv) In the Provinces, the acceleration of the process of devolving the Department's executive and administrative functions on the staffs of the local education authorities.
- (v) In Freetown the opening of the first of three large modern primary schools.
- (vi) The continuation of the policy of providing, from Colonial Development and Welfare funds, modern classroom and science-teaching accommodation for the Freetown secondary schools.

### *Expenditure*

The main sources of finance for education and its distribution are shown in the following table.



# Expenditure on Education, 1955 and 1956

## Social Services

59

	Government Education Department and Development Funds		Local Authorities*		Voluntary Agencies*		Government Education Department only	
	1955 Actual	1956 Approximate	1955 Actual	1956 Approximate	1955 Actual	1956 Approximate	1955 Actual	1956 Approximate
<i>Recurrent</i>	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Administration, Inspection and	84,938	89,920	6,270	21,000	4,243	10,072	84,938	89,920
Office Equipment . . . . .	25,450	33,223	—	—	—	—	25,450	33,223
Board and Lodging . . . . .								
Maintenance of School buildings, furniture and equipment . . . .	21,457	23,370	—	—	—	—	21,457	23,370
Scholarships, overseas and regional	43,714†	97,962	—	—	—	—	39,862	88,000
Post-secondary institutions . . .	143,465	175,000	250	2,500	4,100	1,350	112,000	130,000
Secondary schools . . . . .	101,924	128,985	—	—	26,960	38,161	101,924	128,985
Primary schools . . . . .	269,437	304,720	39,059	101,613	—	—	269,437	304,720
Teacher-training colleges and courses	58,567	76,877	—	—	2,150	—	58,567	76,877
Other vocational schools and courses	52,733	118,979	—	—	—	—	35,818	69,063
Other expenditure . . . . .	17,918	18,981	7,727	13,000	—	—	17,918	18,981
Total Recurrent Capital . . . .	819,603	1,068,017	53,306	138,113	37,453	49,583	767,371	963,139
Expenditure on buildings, etc. . .	317,087	309,328	20,427	27,639	25,505	—	150,636	274,307
GRAND TOTAL . . . . .	1,136,690	1,377,345	73,733	165,752	62,958	49,583	918,007	1,237,446

† Excluding some C.D. and W. grants.

\* Including government grants for administration and buildings.

## Statistics

## Primary and Secondary Schools 1955 and 1956

Type of School	1955			1956		
	No. of Schools	No. of Pupils	No. of Teachers	No. of Schools	No. of Pupils	No. of Teachers
<i>Government</i>						
Primary .	4	1,161	32	5*	1,484	42
Secondary .	6	1,223	70	6	1,345	73
<i>Aided</i>						
Primary .	392	43,711	1,422	432	50,174	1,621
Secondary .	14	3,572	184	15	3,910	209
<i>Unassisted</i>						
Primary .	25	4,062	81	23	4,362	93†
Secondary .	2	426	19	2	521	24
TOTAL .	443	54,155	1,808	483	61,796	2,062†

\* Includes one school shown elsewhere in previous reports.

† Approximate figures.

## Fourah Bay College

Course	Beginning academic year 1955-6	Beginning academic year 1956-7
	No. of Students	No. of Students
Education Diploma . . .	4	4
Arts (Gen.) : { Degree . . .	100	106
{ Non-degree . . .	—	1
Arts (Econ.) : { Degree . . .	73	73
{ Non-degree . . .	6	6
Science : { Degree . . .	32	33
{ Non-degree . . .	—	2
Ministerial . . . . .	9	9
Preliminary and General Certificate of Education (Science) . . . . .	21	19
Teacher-training (non-graduate) . . . . .	106	118
TOTAL . . . . .	351	371
Senior members (excluding non-teaching members)	47	47





*The Governor, Sir Maurice Dorman, inspecting Police in Kono District where they have combatted illicit diamond mining*



*One of the three major road bridges, built to replace ferries in the Provinces, opened to traffic in 1956*





*The new science block of the Prince of Wales School, Freetown, which was opened in 1956*



*One of the ten diesel-engine locomotives put into use by the Sierra Leone Railway in 1956*



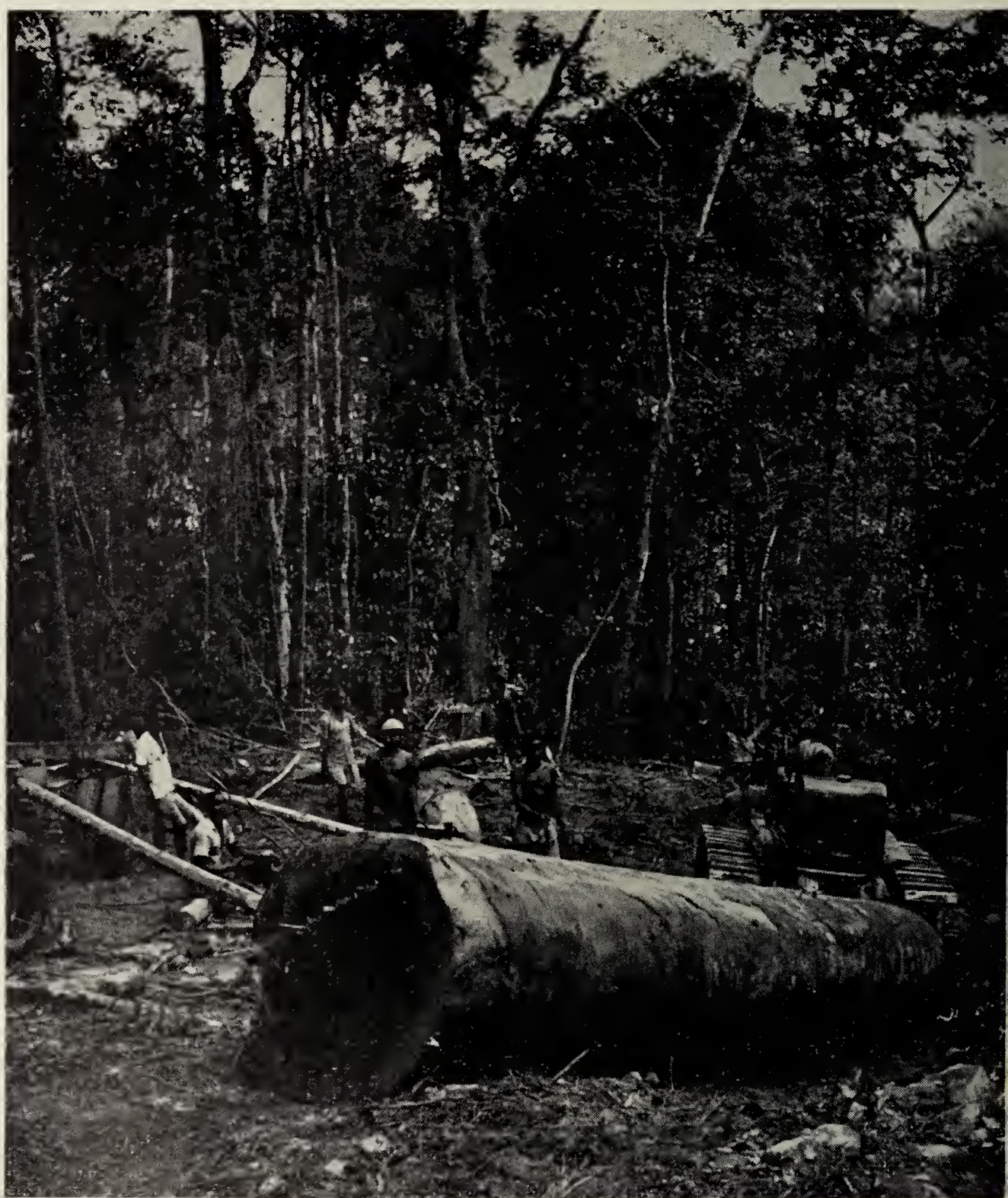


*Leyland 'Tiger' 47-seater Bus :-the Body was constructed by the Road Transport Department*



*Log extraction by Foden Tasker 15-ton articulated logging vehicle*





*A logging area in the Kambui Hills near Kenema*



## Teacher Training

<i>Institutions</i>	<i>1955</i>		<i>1956</i>	
	<i>No. Attending</i>	<i>Left and Teaching</i>	<i>No. Attending</i>	<i>Left and Teaching</i>
Fourah Bay College . . .	106 (+ 4 Dip. Ed.)	62	118 (+ 4 Dip. Ed.)	71
R.C. College, Bo (men) . .	80	13	115	23
Union College, Bunumbu . .	110	32	127	40
Government College, (Magburaka) . . .	129	40	133	42
Government College, (Njala) . .	48	27	41	—
R.C. College, Kenema (women) . . .	21	—	32	—
TOTAL . . .	494	174	566	176
Pre-training centres (men) . .	—	—	110	110

## Scholarship Holders, 1956

	<i>U.K.</i>	<i>Nigeria</i>	<i>Gold Coast</i>
Accountancy . . . . .	1	—	—
Agriculture . . . . .	5	—	—
Architecture . . . . .	2	—	—
Art . . . . .	1	—	—
Building Construction . . . .	3	—	—
Dramatic Art . . . . .	1	—	—
Education			
B.A. Dip. Ed. . . . .	—	—	—
B.Sc. Dip. Ed. . . . .	20	4	—
B.Sc. (Hons.), Dip. Ed. . .	1	—	—
B.Sc. (Mech. Engr.) . . .	1	—	—
B.A. Hons. Dip. Ed. . . .	2	—	—
B.A. Hons. Theology . . .	1	—	—
M.A. Dip. Ed. . . . .	2	—	—
M.A. . . . .	1	—	—
Hons. Degree in Geog. . . .	1	—	—
B.A. (Hons.) Mod. Greats .	1	—	—
B. Com. & Accounting . . .	1	—	—
B.Sc. (Econ.) . . . . .	—	—	—
B.Sc. (Sociology) . . . .	1	—	—
Hons. Maths., Dip. Ed. & Post Graduate . . . . .	1	—	—
Hons. B.Com. . . . .	1	—	—
Physical Education . . . .	3	—	—
Domestic Science . . . . .	1	—	2
Teacher Training . . . . .	2	—	—
Geology . . . . .	2	—	—
Medicine . . . . .	19	1	—
Veterinary . . . . .	2	—	—
Dentistry . . . . .	2	—	—
Dental Mechanic . . . . .	1	—	—
Engineering . . . . .	20	—	—
Telecommunications . . . . .	2	—	—
Radiography . . . . .	1	—	—

			<i>U.K.</i>	<i>Nigeria</i>	<i>Gold Coast</i>
	C/F	.	102	5	2
Music	.	.	1	—	—
Local Govt.	.	.	2	—	—
Institutional Catering	.	.	2	—	—
Photography	.	.	2	—	—
Public Administration	.	.	3	—	—
Sister Tutor Diploma	.	.	2	—	—
City and Guilds	.	.	2	—	—
Journalism	.	.	1	—	—
Attachment to Water Dept.	.	.	1	—	—
Carpentry and Joinery	.	.	1	—	—
Cutting & Tailoring	.	.	2	—	—
Cabinet Making	.	.	1	—	—
Pharmacy	.	.	1	—	—
Chartered Inst. of Secretaries	.	.	1	—	—
Secretarial	.	.	1	—	—
TOTAL	.	.	125	5	2

*Private Students in the U.K., 1956*

<i>Course of Study</i>	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>
Accountancy	24	3
Agriculture	2	—
Architecture	3	—
Art	2	—
Arts Degree	2	7
Biochemistry	—	—
Child Welfare	—	—
Customs	—	—
Dental Mechanic	3	—
Dentistry	8	—
Domestic Science	—	9
Engineering		
Civil	25	—
Electrical	16	—
Mechanical	20	—
Sanitary	—	—
Wireless	10	—
Economics & Commerce	13	2
Estate Management	2	—
Forestry	2	—
Income Tax	2	—
Journalism	1	—
Law	61	5
Librarianship	1	—
Geology	1	—
Constitutional Management	—	1
Marine Officers	6	—
Medical Laboratory	2	—
Medicine	18	2
Music	2	—
Nursing	6	150
Pharmacy	3	—
Physiotherapy	2	3
Physical Training	1	—
Police	1	—



Printing . . . . .	4	1
Prisons . . . . .	1	—
Public Administration . . . . .	3	—
Radiography . . . . .	2	1
Road Transport . . . . .	2	—
Science Degree . . . . .	5	3
Secondary Education . . . . .	27	12
Secretarial . . . . .	2	43
School . . . . .	2	13
Surveying . . . . .	5	—
Teacher Training . . . . .	1	7
Veterinary . . . . .	1	—
Miscellaneous . . . . .	45	19
Armed Forces . . . . .	3	—
Unknown . . . . .	80	65
TOTAL . . . . .	422	343

## PUBLIC HEALTH

*General Health*

Without a full and up-to-date census it is not possible to give accurate vital statistics of birth and death rates. Available statistics of births and deaths are given in Part II, Chapter 1. Only a very small proportion of deaths are medically certified by qualified medical practitioners and therefore detailed statistics of mortality from the principal diseases cannot be given, but records of diseases and deaths in government hospitals indicate the most important observed causes of disease and mortality. Infant mortality in Freetown was 133 infants deaths per 1,000 live births, but outside Freetown, where maternity services are still relatively undeveloped, it is believed to be much higher. Further details are given on pp. 65-66.

The chief diseases and causes of death in hospital returns are the infective and parasitic diseases. Skin diseases, gastro-intestinal infections and infestation, respiratory infections and gonorrhoea are very common. Important endemic diseases are malaria, yaws, leprosy, trypanosomiasis, schistosomiasis, filariasis and tuberculosis. Nutritional deficiencies and anaemias are also important causes of sickness.

Sanitary conditions in the diamond mining areas in the South-Eastern Province have caused serious concern. The immigration of some thousands of native foreigners to take part in illegal diamond mining led to the mushroom growth of very insanitary and overcrowded camps, with roughly constructed temporary huts. Vaccination against smallpox was maintained and intensified in the mining area throughout the year, over 100,000 vaccinations being done in Kono district alone and over 60,000 in other districts in the South-Eastern Province, but smallpox was introduced into the Northern Province and in the South-Eastern Province was concealed in the camps. After the dispersion of illegal miners many returned to their homes in Sierra Leone and there was a widespread

outbreak of smallpox which became epidemic in the new year. A total of 942 cases had been notified up to the end of the year. Energetic sanitary measures were taken to deal with the situation, by vaccination, the isolation and treatment of the sick, and the destruction of unfit and infected huts in mining areas after they had been abandoned. Plans were made for orderly housing and sanitation in areas where licensed mining is permitted.

Central Government expenditure on public health was estimated at £305,230.

### *Hospital and Health Centre Services*

The government medical service is responsible for the bulk of the country's hospital services. There are base hospitals at Freetown and Bo, with rural hospitals either already in existence or now being built in the principal town of each administrative district, with one additional hospital at Lungi airport. Ancillary to the hospital services are a number of health centres, containing a dispensary, a small maternity and child welfare unit, and a sanitary office and store, with a staff of a dispenser, a midwife, and a health inspector. Twenty-two new health centres were planned under Colonial Development and Welfare schemes and all of these were completed by the end of 1956. In addition to qualified midwives, village girls are trained at suitable centres as Village Maternity Assistants. They return to their villages, after training in the conduct of normal confinements, to practice domiciliary midwifery in association with the qualified midwives at health centres and hospitals.

The Government also gives grants-in-aid to approved missionary hospitals and the Missions provide an important part of the hospital services. Two mining companies also have hospitals which provide excellent service for their employees.

Statistics of medical staff and medical facilities are given on pp. 66-69.

### *Public Health Services*

The Public Health Department of the Government Medical Service is responsible for all port and airport sanitation, the control of infections and epidemic diseases, for malaria control schemes and for sanitation in Freetown. Elsewhere environmental sanitation is the responsibility of native authorities, special health authorities, and the town and district councils of Bo, Sherbro, and the rural areas of the Colony. All local authority sanitation is supervised by the Health Department's medical officers and health superintendents.

### *Endemic Diseases Control*

Certain important endemic diseases are controlled by a field medical unit of the Government Medical Service, the Endemic Diseases Control Unit. The endemic diseases with which the unit is concerned



at present are trypanosomiasis, yaws and leprosy. The unit started during the year upon a combined W.H.O. and U.N.I.C.E.F. scheme for eliminating yaws with penicillin and 230,000 people have already been treated in the Northern Province entirely by Sierra Leone Medical Department staff. Equipment and penicillin have been provided by U.N.I.C.E.F. A W.H.O. team of a serologist, senior medical officer and public health nurse arrived to take part in the campaign during the year and may operate on the Liberian border. The campaign will also be concerned with general public health measures and other endemic diseases such as leprosy.

U.N.I.C.E.F. have also approved a scheme for the supply of equipment for 14 Health Centres for teaching equipment in training centres and for midwifery kits and skimmed milk, at an estimated cost of \$22,000.

*Births and Deaths Registered in Freetown and the Colony, 1956*

<i>Live Births</i>			
	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Freetown . . . . .	1,990	1,933	3,923
Rural Areas . . . . .	786	846	1,632
Bonthe (Sherbro) . . . . .	53	54	107
<b>TOTAL . . . . .</b>	<b>2,829</b>	<b>2,833</b>	<b>5,662</b>

<i>Deaths</i>			
	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Freetown . . . . .	1,055	849	1,904
Rural Areas . . . . .	637	635	1,272
Bonthe (Sherbro) . . . . .	71	63	134
<b>TOTAL . . . . .</b>	<b>1,763</b>	<b>1,547</b>	<b>3,310</b>

*Births, Still-Births and Infant Mortality in Freetown, 1956*

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Live Births . . . . .	1,990	1,933	3,923
Still-births . . . . .	137	107	244
Deaths under 1 year of age . . . . .	286	234	520

*Infant Mortality Rate*

Deaths under one year per 1,000 Live Births .	132.55
Still-births rate, stillbirth per 1,000 births .	62.1

Of the 520 deaths under one year of age, 297 died in the first month of life, a rate of 85 per 1,000 live births.

*Freetown Infant Mortality Rates for the Past Nine Years*

1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
159	158	148	119	143	116	110	124.9	132.55

*Rural Areas—Colony*

In the rural areas of the Colony the recorded registrations of births and infant deaths were :

	Male	Female	Total
Live Births . . . . .	786	846	1,632
Deaths under 12 months . . . . .	138	138	276

In the Sherbro Judicial District, the recorded registrations of births and infant deaths were :

	Male	Female	Total
Live Births . . . . .	53	54	107
Deaths under 12 months . . . . .	10	12	22
Infant Mortality Rate . . . . .	205.6		

The Medical Department, which is administered by the Director of Medical Services assisted by a Deputy Director and an Assistant Director, has an approved establishment totalling 1,485.

*Number of Non-Government Doctors at 31.12.1956*

Mining	Mission	Military	Private
3	8	4	11

Figures for Nurses in Missions, Companies, etc., were not available.

*List of Dispensaries and Health Centres  
Under Central Government*

Area	Place	Type of Unit
Colony	Regent	Dispensary
"	Kent	"
"	York	"
"	Waterloo	"
"	Songo	Lock-up
"	Hastings	Dispensary
"	Newton	Lock-up
"	Kissy	Dispensary
"	Wellington	Lock-up
"	Bananas	"
"	Hamilton	"
"	Goderich	"
"	Russell	"



*Under Local Government**South-Western Province*

Bauya	Dispensary
Mebang	"
Koribunda	Health Centre
Sembehum	"
Sulima	Dispensary
Sumbuya	Health Centre
Gbap	Dispensary
York Island	"
Zimi	Health Centre
Madina	"
Shenge	"
Mano	"

*South-Eastern Province*

Blama	Dispensary
Pendembu	Health Centre
Daru	"
Koidu	Dispensary
Kaiyima	Health Centre

*Northern Province*

Magburaka	Dispensary
Yonnibana	Health Centre
Kambia	"
Batkanu	Dispensary
Lunsar	Health Centre
Falaba	"
Ycle	"
Numea	"
Gbinti	"
Bumbuna	"
Makali	"
Kychom	"

## Mission and Mining Hospitals and Dispensaries, Bed Strength

NAME AND MISSION	PLACE	NUMBER AND CATEGORY OF BEDS					REMARKS
		General	Obste- trical	Tuber- culosis	Infec- tious	Mental	
		MISSION HOSPITALS					
American Wesleyan	Kamakwie	31	3	1	1	—	+ 4 Cots
Evangelical United Brethren in Christ	Rotifunk	26	11	—	—	—	+ 7 Cots
Methodist	Taiama	—	12	—	—	—	
Roman Catholic	Segbwema	68	20	11	3	—	+ 6 Cots
American Wesleyan	Serabu	40	4	—	—	—	+ 6 Cots
	MISSION DISPENSARIES (Not under the care of a Resident Medical Officer)						
	Kukunavia Rokupr	2	1	—	—	—	
	Bendumbu via Makeni	—	1	—	—	—	
	Massumbo via Makeni	—	—	—	—	—	
	Kamabai via Makeni	—	—	—	—	—	
	Bafodia via Kabala	—	—	—	—	—	
United Brethren American	Mattru Jong	5	5	—	—	—	
	Gbangbaia (visited monthly)	—	—	—	—	—	
Missionary Church Association	Yifin (Niemi Chiefdom)	6	2	—	—	—	
	Sambaia Bendugu	—	—	—	—	—	
Methodist	Mayoso	—	2	—	—	—	
	Bunumbu	4	—	—	—	—	
Evangelical United Brethren in Christ	Jojoima	2	—	—	—	—	
	Jaiama	1	9	—	—	—	
		MINING HOSPITALS					
Sierra Leone Selection Trust	Yengema	38	6	—	6	—	
Sierra Leone Development Co.	Marampa	27	3	—	6	—	+ 4 Cots
	MINING DISPENSARY (not under the care of a Resident Medical Officer)						
Sierra Leone Development Co.	Pepel	3	—	—	—	—	
TOTAL		253	79	12	16	—	+ 27 Cots

+ 4 Cots

+ 27 Cots



## Government Hospital Beds

Name and Location of hospital	NUMBER AND CATEGORY OF BEDS					
	General	Obstet- rical	Tuber- culosis	Infec- tious	Mental	Remarks
<b>COLONY</b>						
Connaught .	150	—	—	—	—	+ 31 Cots
Connaught An- nexe .	20	—	—	—	—	+ 3 „
Hill Station .	31	—	—	2	1	+ 3 „
Maternity .	—	52	—	—	—	+ 43 „
Murray Town	—	—	—	40	—	
Lakka Tuber- culosis .	—	—	50	—	—	
Kissy Mental .	—	—	—	—	112	
King George V Memorial Home .	64	—	—	10*	—	} For the aged and indigent
Female Infirmary .	32	—	—	—	—	
Princess Christian .	23	—	—	—	—	
<b>PROTEC- TORATE</b>						
Bo .	76	10	10	—	—	+ 12 Cots
Bo Annexe .	4	—	—	—	—	
Bonthe .	32	6	—	2	—	+ 4 Cots
Moyamba .	17	2	—	—	—	+ 2 „
Pujehun .	22	—	—	—	—	+ 2 „
Kailahun .	13	3	—	—	—	+ 3 „
Makeni .	23	4	—	—	—	+ 2 „
Port Loko .	18	—	—	—	—	+ 4 „
Kabala .	38	1	—	—	—	+ 4 „
Lungi .	12†	—	—	—	—	
Kenema .	28	4	—	—	—	
Magburaka .	20	3	1	—	—	+ 4 „
<b>TOTAL .</b>	<b>623</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>+ 117 Cots</b>

\* For Leprosy.

† Reserved for emergency and in the event of an accident to aircraft.

## HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING

In Freetown and the major towns building is controlled and designs are subject to official approval under various Ordinances. The standard of building in Freetown and Bo continues to improve steadily and permanent materials are being used increasingly. A scheme was in course of preparation with the intention of providing about seven hundred low-cost workers' houses on the outskirts of Freetown for occupation by those of the lowest income group. African civil servants may obtain loans from the Government to build houses for their own occupation. An arrangement whereby credit may be granted to members of rural communities for the

purchase of permanent building materials is in operation. In towns the normal materials for walls are sand-cement blockwork or mass concrete, and for buildings of more than one storey, flat concrete roofs are favoured.

#### SOCIAL WELFARE

The first School for the Blind in Sierra Leone was opened early in the year, and is located on the outskirts of Freetown.

Twenty-four trainees, representing four districts, attended a six-month training course conducted by the Department at Bo.

The Department was represented at the C.C.T.A. Conference on Juvenile Delinquency and Probation at Kampala, Uganda, in October, and at the Annual Conference of the Commonwealth Youth Movement in the United Kingdom during the summer of 1956. The Sierra Leone Youth Council sent a delegation to the Commonwealth Youth Council Conference at Missenden Abbey, Buckinghamshire, England, in July, and also to the 6th Council of the World Assembly of Youth in West Berlin in August.

#### *Youth Organisations*

Ninety-four known youth groups functioned during the year, made up of 27 male, 27 female and 40 mixed organisations. Youth organisations have increased in the Protectorate. Leaders of the Boy Scouts, Girl Guides and other youth organisations benefited from local Leadership Training Courses during the year.

The Girl Guides Association sent delegates to the All-African Girl Guides Conference held in Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia, in May.

Youth Week was expanded in 1956, and Provincial centres reported improvements in the types of programme presented, an increased number of places observing Youth Week and an increase in the number of young people becoming aware of the significance of the observance.

#### *Community Development*

Plans for the establishment of a Social Development Training Centre at Bo are being implemented and building operations began. The Centre is designed for the training of district and chiefdom workers.

Community development extended into the Bombali, Tonkolili, Bonthe and Kono Districts, where Community Associations, Youth Clubs, Women's Institutes and Town Forums were organised. In Bo, the Women's Branch of the Community Association started an experimental school-meal programme in three of the schools. About 400 children benefit weekly.



*Juvenile Delinquency and Probation*

Four hundred and thirty-three juveniles appeared before the Juvenile Courts. Sixty were put under probation and 70 under supervision. The average age was 13 years.

Ninety-six boys were in residence at the Approved School, Wellington, 41 being admitted during the year. Sixty-nine were sent to the Aberdeen camp as a result of good behaviour.

The Bo Remand Home was opened on the 1st of September to meet a long-felt need for the proper handling of juvenile delinquents in the South-Eastern and South-Western Provinces.

The King Tom Remand Home had 475 admissions, made up of 444 males and 31 females : 27 males and 2 females absconded ; 14 are still at large. There has been a marked increase in the number of girls admitted and a girls' hostel in Freetown is needed.

*Chapter 8 : Legislation*

IN 1956, 36 Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council. Of these 11 were original Ordinances including 2 Appropriation Ordinances, and the balance of 25 were amending Ordinances.

The following Ordinances were the more important enactments passed.

*The Diamond Supplementary Agreement (1955) Ratification Ordinance, 1956 (No. 1 of 1956).* By an Agreement made on the 30th day of December, 1955, between the Government of Sierra Leone, of the one part, and the Sierra Leone Selection Trust, Limited, of the other part, the Trust agreed to surrender their sole and exclusive right under their original Licence (as amended and modified from time to time) to explore for, exploit, take, dispose of, and market diamonds throughout Sierra Leone. The Agreement allows for the grant by Government of licenses to mine alluvial diamonds to Africans belonging to Sierra Leone, or to any company in which the beneficial interest or the greater part thereof is owned by an African or Africans belonging to Sierra Leone. This it was hoped would help to reduce illicit diamond mining. For the surrender of their original exclusive right, the Trust under the Agreement was paid compensation of £1,570,000. The Agreement provides that it should be ratified by legislation and that is the object of this Ordinance.

*The Alluvial Diamond Mining Ordinance, 1956 (No. 2 of 1956).* This Ordinance makes provision for the licensing and control of the prospecting for and mining of alluvial diamonds by Africans of Sierra Leone and for the marketing and exporting of such diamonds, consequent upon the passing of the Diamond Supplementary Agreement (1955) Ratification Ordinance, 1956 (No. 1, of 1956).

*The District Councils (Amendment) Ordinance, 1956, (No. 5 of 1956).* This Ordinance provides for the election of members of District Councils to represent voters in each ward. In general the Bill carries out the recommendations of the Report of the Electoral Reform Commission (the Keith Lucas Report).

*The Tonkolili and Marampa Supplementary Agreement (1956) Ratification Ordinance, 1956 (No. 6 of 1956).* The Indentures and Agreements and the Memorandum of Agreement recited in the Preamble to this Ordinance regulate the manner in which the Sierra Leone Development Company, Limited, shall work the iron ore deposits in the Marampa and Tonkolili areas of the Protectorate, and make provision for taxation of the profits of the Company. A fresh agreement has been entered into between the Government and the Company whereby the Company will become liable to pay an Iron Ore Concession Tax, in lieu of the Duty under the Concessions Ordinance (Cap. 42), and the Tonkolili Profits Tax under the Tonkolili Agreement. Under the new Agreement, the Company will be liable to pay income tax in Sierra Leone and also, in addition, the new Iron Ore Concessions Tax, whereas the former Agreements provided that the duty payable under the said Concessions Ordinance and the Tonkolili Profits Tax should be offset against the income tax and confirmed by legislation and that is the principal object of this Ordinance.

*The Local Loans Ordinance, 1956 (No. 7 of 1956).* The General Loan and Stock Ordinance, 1950 (No. 15 of 1950), empowers the Government to raise loans and the Crown Agents to issue stock on its behalf in the United Kingdom. It is considered desirable that there should also be legislation enabling loans to be raised and stock to be issued in Sierra Leone. This is the object of this Ordinance.

*The Loan (Bearer Premium Bonds) Ordinance, 1956 (No. 8 of 1956).* The object of this Ordinance is to encourage savings, especially among those who would come into possession of large amounts of money from the digging and buying of diamonds. It is thought that an arrangement for the sale of bearer premium bonds would absorb earnings which would otherwise circulate and possibly inflate the prices of goods. The bonds are bearer bonds and therefore negotiable.

*The Employers and Employed (Amendment) Ordinance, 1956 (No. 9 of 1956).* This Ordinance amends the Principal Ordinance (Cap. 70) so as to conform with certain International Labour Conventions. The legally prescribed limit of duration of a written contract of service, other than an apprenticeship contract, is reduced from two years to one year, whilst penal sanctions for certain offences by apprentices and for desertion from an employer during a journey are abolished. At the West African Labour Commissioners' Conference held in Accra in May, 1951, it was agreed that the special legislation applied to ex-servicemen should be abolished, and the



Employment of Ex-servicemen Ordinance (Cap. 71) is therefore repealed ; but those provisions in the repealed Cap. 71 which require major employers to engage industrial workers through the Employment Exchanges are incorporated in this Ordinance.

*The Income Tax (Amendment) (No. 2) Ordinance, 1956 (No. 16 of 1956).* This Ordinance increases the allowance for expenditure on plant and machinery to 40 per cent in the first year and for building to 20 per cent in the first year and 10 per cent on the written down value in subsequent years. It also permits such allowances to be made in respect of buildings on any leased land.

*The Aliens (Control in Special Areas) Ordinance, 1956 (No. 24 of 1956).* The presence of several thousands of aliens in certain areas in the Protectorate of Sierra Leone constituted such a serious threat to public order and public health, that it was considered desirable for Government to be vested with special powers to deal with this extraordinary situation. This Ordinance, therefore, gives the Governor in Council power to declare any area to be a Special Area, and to make Regulations for restricting the presence of aliens in such an area and for their removal and, if necessary, deportation from Sierra Leone. The Ordinance deals with a temporary situation and therefore provides for its continuance in force for one year only, subject to renewal by a resolution of the legislature.

*The Local Tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 1956 (No. 26 of 1956).* This Ordinance provides that refusal or wilful neglect to pay local tax shall be a criminal offence. This amendment to the law was recommended in Chapter IX of the Report of the Cox Commission which inquired into disturbances in the Protectorate in 1956.

*The Coroners (Amendment) Ordinance, 1956 (No. 30 of 1956).* This Ordinance provides for the admission in evidence before Coroners of written reports of medical practitioners regarding the cause of death of a deceased person, so as to avoid the necessity of a medical practitioner having to attend in person to give evidence in all cases.

*The Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Ordinance, 1956 (No. 31 of 1956).* The main purpose of this Ordinance is to amend the Principal Ordinance (Cap. 52) so as to promote the speedier trial of criminal cases and to avoid unnecessary inconvenience and expense to witnesses in such cases, whilst at the same time ensuring, by certain safeguards, that there is no risk of injustice being done to accused persons. Sections 44 and 45 of the Principal Ordinance are replaced so as to relate the law in Sierra Leone to that of England regarding the joinder of offences in an indictment, and to permit of more than one offence being tried together in the Magistrates' Courts. By the replacement of section 58 and the insertion of a new section 110A, a committing Magistrate can bind over a witness conditionally, if he is of the opinion that his attendance at the trial will be unnecessary and the deposition of such a witness may then be put in evidence at the trial. Under the new section 58A, the depositions

of medical witnesses can be read as evidence in any trial, unless the accused person requires the attendance in person of the witness. The new section 61A provides for certain scientific reports to be received as evidence in all Courts. Finally, a new section 110B has been inserted to provide for the re-opening of preliminary investigations in certain circumstances. At present if a defect or omission is found in the record of a preliminary investigation, the proceedings must start afresh.

*The Prohibition of Forced Labour Ordinance, 1956 (No. 33 of 1956).* This Ordinance carries out the recommendations made in Chapter XV of the Report of the Cox Commission which inquired into disturbances in the Protectorate in 1956, namely, that the rights of Chiefs to forced labour should be abrogated, and that the rights of Government to call upon labour should be restricted to the forms of labour described in paragraphs (c), (d) and (e) of section 2 of the Forced Labour Ordinance (Cap. 82), which is repealed by this Ordinance.

Ordinances were also passed (Nos. 11, 13, 14 and 15 of 1956) to amend the Freetown Municipality Ordinance, the Sherbro Urban District Council Ordinance, the Bo Town Council Ordinance and the Rural Area Ordinance, so as to carry out, with some modifications, the recommendations of the Keith Lucas Report regarding alterations in the franchise and the composition of the local authorities in these areas.

## Chapter 9 : Justice, Police and Prisons

### JUSTICE

THE Courts of Sierra Leone are the Supreme Court of Sierra Leone, the Magistrates' Courts in the Colony and Protectorate and the Native Courts of the Protectorate.

#### *Supreme Court*

The Supreme Court has jurisdiction in the Colony and Protectorate, and exercises all the jurisdiction, powers and authorities which are vested in or capable of being exercised by the High Court of Justice in England, with the exception of the jurisdiction and powers of the High Court of Admiralty. Its jurisdiction, however, does not extend to cases arising exclusively between natives,

- (i) which involve title to land situate within the Protectorate subject to the reservation mentioned below, or
- (ii) which relate to marriage or divorce by native customary law or any matrimonial claim founded on such a marriage, or
- (iii) where the claim or matter in dispute does not exceed £100 in value, or



- (iv) which relate to the administration of estates of deceased persons who are natives where such estates lie within the jurisdiction of any Native Court.

Such cases are triable only in Native Courts.

The practice or procedure of the Supreme Court in civil matters is regulated by Rules of Court made under the provisions of the Courts Ordinance, Cap. 50 and in criminal matters by the Criminal Procedure Ordinance, Cap. 52.

As regards substantive law, the Common Law of England, the doctrines of Equity and English Statutory Law of general application in England on the 1st January, 1880, are in force in Sierra Leone.

In addition, certain English statutes after 1880, affecting both the criminal law and civil law, have been brought into force from time to time by Ordinance ; principal among them may be mentioned the following :

- (1) The Conveyancing and Law of Property Act, 1880 (in part)
- (2) The Settled Land Act, 1882 (in part)
- (3) The Conveyancing Act, 1882 (in part)
- (4) The Settled Land Act, 1884 (in part)
- (5) The Trustees Act, 1883
- (6) The Settled Land Act, 1889
- (7) The Trustee Appointment Act, 1890
- (8) The Settled Land Act, 1890 (in part)
- (9) The Conveyancing and Law of Property Act, 1892
- (10) The Voluntary Conveyances Act, 1893
- (11) The Trustee Act, 1893 (in part)
- (12) The Trustee Act, 1893, Amendment Act, 1894, (the whole except section 2)
- (13) The Judicial Trustees Act, 1896
- (14) The Conveyancing Act, 1911 (in part)
- (15) The Perjury Act, 1911
- (16) The Forgery Act, 1913 (in part)
- (17) The Larceny Act, 1916
- (18) The Bill of Sale Act, 1878
- (19) The Sale of Goods Act, 1893
- (20) The Criminal Justice Act, 1925

Any person charged with a criminal offence in the Colony is tried by the Court with a jury consisting of 12 men, unless :

- (i) such person shall have elected to be tried by the Court with the aid of assessors ; or
- (ii) the Court shall have ordered such person to be tried with the aid of assessors in accordance with the Jurors and Assessors Ordinance, Cap. 114.

In the Protectorate the Supreme Court is assisted by two or more assessors, whose opinions are given orally. The decisions of the Court, however, is vested exclusively in the Judge. In civil cases trial is

by the Judge alone. He may, however, appoint assessors to assist him in any case where native customary law is involved, but the decision is vested exclusively in the Presiding Judge.

### *Magistrates' Courts*

The jurisdiction of the Magistrates' Courts in civil cases is as follows :

- (a) In the Colony, any cause or matter which may lawfully be brought before it, and
- (b) In the Protectorate, any cause or matter other than an action founded upon libel and slander where such cause or matter is between—
  - (i) non-natives
  - (ii) a native and non-native or
  - (iii) a native and the holder of a trading licence, although a native and arises out of the latter's trading, wherein the claim, debt or matter in dispute does not exceed £100 in value, whether on balance of account or otherwise.

The criminal jurisdiction of the Magistrates' Courts is limited to cases triable summarily and its procedure in this jurisdiction is governed by the Criminal Procedure Ordinance, Cap. 52. In addition, magistrates hold preliminary investigations to determine whether a person charged with an offence triable by the Supreme Court shall or shall not be committed for trial.

### *Native Courts*

The Native Courts of the Protectorate have jurisdiction in all matters between natives *inter se* not triable by any other court. The law and practice of such courts are according to native law and customs. In chiefdoms which have become Native Administrations the Native Court is presided over by the Paramount Chief and three or four members of the Tribal Authority, sitting in rotation. In other chiefdoms, the constitution is not so rigid. The former are also Courts of Record and submit monthly returns to the District Commissioner, whereas the latter are not so organised.

The Native Courts have jurisdiction in all civil cases arising exclusively between natives, other than a case involving a question of title to land between two or more Paramount Chiefs, or of a debt claimed by the holder of a trading licence. If the amount in dispute however, is over £100, the case may be taken to the Supreme Court. In cases of land disputes, the Native Courts have power to hear and determine claims except where the dispute concerns two chiefdoms. In such cases, or where the case is of unusual importance, the District Commissioner has power to enquire and decide.

### *Appeals*

There is an automatic appeal from the Native Court to the District Commissioner where sentences of imprisonment exceeding fourteen



days are imposed by a Native Court. The District Commissioner, on the application of any party or of his own motion, also has a power of review of all cases originating in a Native Court. In Bonthe District three Group Native Appeal Courts have been set up under the Native Courts Ordinance, and have proved a success. The extension of this appeal system to the remainder of the Protectorate is being considered.

Appeals from the Magistrates' Courts go to the Supreme Court, and from the Supreme Court to the West African Court of Appeal. This court sits in Sierra Leone in March and October and at any other time the President may direct. From the West African Court of Appeal, an appeal lies in appropriate cases to Her Majesty's Privy Council in England.

### *Types of Case*

The commonest types of litigation and offence in the respective Courts are :

#### *Supreme Court*

- (a) Amount due, resulting from breach of contractual obligation
- (b) Larceny

#### *Magistrates' Courts*

- (a) Debts including arrears of rent and damages for assault and wounding
- (b) Larceny, burglary and housebreaking, assault and wounding

#### *Native Courts*

- (a) Bush disputes
- (b) Cases involving marriage customary laws.

Particulars of work done in the Court of Appeal and the Supreme and Magistrates' Courts during the year are shown in the tables on p. 78.

### *Probation and Juveniles*

Under the Probation of Offenders Ordinance No. 19 of 1950, first offenders may be put on probation under the supervision of a Probation Officer. Immediately after conviction, a report as to character, antecedents, etc., of the offender is submitted to the Court by the Probation Officer ; the Court may then make a probation order. Juvenile offenders are sent to the Approved School for corrective training.

## STATISTICS OF COURT WORK, 1956

Court	No. of Criminal Cases Heard	Convictions		Discharges		Put on Proba- tion	No. of Civil Cases Heard
		Juve- niles	Adults	Juve- niles	Adults		
West African Court of Appeal . . . . .	31	—	82	—	—	—	1
Supreme Court . . . . .	501	—	639	—	90	—	517
Magistrates' Courts (a)	11,957	291	7,308	61	4,063	136	1,097

(a) No. of cases in which fines imposed—4,593

(b) Total fines—£18,069 17s. 8d.

(c) No. of cases of fines as an alternative to imprisonment—4,472

(d) No. of cases in which fines paid—3,591

(e) No. of cases in which fines not paid—1,336

(f) No. of cases in which accused bound over—2,471

(g) Types of other punishment—204.

(a) Particulars in respect of Magistrates' Court at Sefadu were not available.

### *Commonest types of offence and litigation*

Riot, storebreaking and larceny, wounding, motor traffic offences, larceny, assault, debts, actions for possessions, damages, etc.

### POLICE

The establishment of the Sierra Leone Police Force comprised in 1956, 40 Superior Police Officers, 66 Chief Inspectors, Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors and 1,416 Non-commissioned Officers and men. This establishment includes a Band which consists of a bandmaster (a Deputy Superintendent of Police) and 25 bandsmen.

The Force is responsible for the prevention and detection of crime and the maintenance of public order throughout Sierra Leone. For this purpose the country is divided into four Police Divisions, which in turn are divided into Police Districts. In Freetown there is in addition a Harbour and Immigration Section and a Traffic Section.

A wireless network connects Headquarters, Freetown, with the Divisional Headquarters in Bo, Makni and Kenema. The net extends to District Headquarters at Port Loko, Lunsar, Kambia, Magburaka and Yengema. A V.H.F. system is operated in Freetown with patrol cars in wireless contact with the Information Room.

The Information Room figured prominently in the prevention of crime during the year. The following calls were received :



<i>FROM POLICE</i>		<i>FROM PUBLIC</i>		<i>ARRESTS MADE</i>
<i>Crime</i>	<i>Accidents</i>	<i>Crime</i>	<i>Accidents</i>	
861	78	596	155	525

The Police Training School at Hastings played an important part in the Force, and 204 recruits completed training and passed out during 1956. In addition there were promotion and refresher courses. First-aid and life-saving formed an important part of recruits' training.

There was an increase in offences reported of 1,521 over the total for 1955 (see Appendix I). This rise is partly due to increased criminal activity but is also attributable to increased police activity in new areas of the Protectorate.

There was an increase of 785 road accidents reported over the total number for 1955. This increase was mainly due to the increased number of registered motor vehicles on the road, 418 more than in 1955, the majority being commercial. The low standards of driving contributed materially to the increase.

During the year 1,619 persons were arrested for contravening the Alluvial Diamond Mining Ordinance, and of these, 1,190 were convicted. Eight hundred and forty-four diamonds were recovered, weighing 430.94 carats and valued at £3,117 7s. 6d.

The disturbances in the Provinces, which began in October, 1955, continued into the first three months of 1956, and the Northern Province was the area most affected. During the process of restoring peace to the area 1,437 persons were arrested of whom 532 were convicted in the Magistrates' Court.

One hundred and forty-nine cases were committed for trial in the Supreme Court and 286 cases were either withdrawn in Court or the arrested persons released for want of evidence of identification.

### *Immigration and Passport Control*

The number of passports and other travel documents issued during 1956 compared with 1955 was as follows :

	1955	1956
Passports . . . . .	579	608
Travel Certificates . . . . .	810	930
Seamen's Certificates of Nationality and Identity . . . . .	200	97
Seamen's Identity . . . . .	—	24
Emergency Certificates . . . . .	79	593
	<hr/> 1,668 <hr/>	<hr/> 2,252 <hr/>

Two hundred and six passports and 204 travel certificates were renewed. Eighty-one full visas and twenty-one transit visas were issued. Revenue derived from Immigration and Passport Control amounted to £1,116 3s. 6d.

The following persons, excluding West Africans, entered and left Sierra Leone by sea, land and air in 1955 and 1956 :

	1955		1956	
	<i>Entered</i>	<i>Left</i>	<i>Entered</i>	<i>Left</i>
British Subjects . . . . .	2,331	2,132	2,877	2,525
American . . . . .	136	137	167	142
Austrian . . . . .	1	1	3	1
Belgian . . . . .	—	—	2	2
Brazilian . . . . .	2	2	3	1
Chinese . . . . .	1	1	—	—
Czech . . . . .	4	2	2	6
Danish . . . . .	29	22	26	23
Dutch . . . . .	23	15	38	43
French . . . . .	165	136	194	184
Finnish . . . . .	5	1	2	1
German . . . . .	22	17	31	29
Greek . . . . .	11	8	6	10
Hungarian . . . . .	—	1	—	1
Indian . . . . .	51	45	86	80
Italian . . . . .	35	30	58	41
Japanese . . . . .	3	3	1	1
Jordanian . . . . .	1	1	2	2
Lebanese and Syrian . . . . .	358	355	377	381
Liberian . . . . .	220	229	157	158
Liechtestein . . . . .	—	1	—	—
Norwegian . . . . .	3	3	6	11
Polish . . . . .	2	2	7	4
Portugese . . . . .	1	—	—	—
Spanish . . . . .	9	10	6	11
Sudanese . . . . .	2	2	1	1
Swedish . . . . .	10	11	16	11
Swiss . . . . .	33	43	42	38
Stateless . . . . .	2	2	—	—
TOTALS . . . . .	3,460	3,212	4,110	3,707

The total numbers of persons, including West Africans, who entered and left Sierra Leone during 1955 and 1956 were :

	1955		1956	
	<i>Entered</i>	<i>Left</i>	<i>Entered</i>	<i>Left</i>
By Land . . . . .	207	223	1,276	1,385
By Sea . . . . .	4,661	4,042	5,654	3,881
By Air . . . . .	3,207	2,965	4,184	4,118
TOTALS . . . . .	8,075	7,230	11,114	9,384

During the year five stowaways were convicted and one Sierra Leonean was repatriated.



*Aliens Registration*

The total number of aliens registered during 1956 was 185, an increase of 56 over the preceding year. Their nationalities were :

American	.	.	.	.	.	.	15
Danish	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
Dutch	.	.	.	.	.	.	3
Egyptian	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
French	.	.	.	.	.	.	35
Israeli	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
Italians	.	.	.	.	.	.	6
Lebanese and Syrian	.	.	.	.	.	.	116
Swiss	.	.	.	.	.	.	5
TOTAL							185

## PRISONS

There are 15 prison establishments in Sierra Leone, administered by the Director of Prisons who has his Headquarters in Freetown, the Deputy Director of Prisons who has his Headquarters in Kenema, and a staff of three Superior Officers, five Junior Service Officers and 247 subordinate ranks, including disciplinary and industrial staff. There are in addition 15 Clerical Assistants, one Store Assistant, five School Teachers and a Discharged Prisoners' Agent.

The various establishments include a central prison and minimum security camp in Freetown ; a camp for first offenders at Masanki, three district prisons at Moyamba, Kenema and Pujehun, and nine local prisons in the Provinces. The minimum security camp in Freetown is for the treatment of recidivists serving short terms of imprisonment. A dormitory is set aside for prisoners from good background in civil life. The first offenders' prison at Masanki is run on agricultural lines, and officers now training there will be required to man the new central prison at Magburaka, where it is hoped that prisoners will be taught farming and livestock breeding, and given industrial training.

Progress on the building of the Magburaka prison has unfortunately been slow but 1956 saw the initial stage well in hand and the second phase, i.e., the constructional work, which the Prison Department itself proposes to carry out, was in sight.

During "Operation Parasite", referred to at page 5 of Part I, the Prison Department was responsible for organising, maintaining and manning a reception camp for evacuees at Koidu, near Sefadu.

The overcrowding of the prisons has not affected the discipline of prisoners nor has morale amongst the officers deteriorated. The biggest problem has been the useful employment of prisoners with a view to their rehabilitation, and this is still receiving close attention. An extra tailors' shop has been built and put into use, and a prison instructor was sent to Nigeria to improve his knowledge of weaving.

The health of the prisoners has generally been good and although there were outbreaks of chicken-pox in various establishments, prompt action prevented the disease from getting out of hand. Close attention has been paid to the prisoners' diet.

Educational training has improved and the Department now has five teachers seconded to its staff, one of whom is stationed at the Warders' Training School.

During the year, 18 subordinate officers passed through the Training School. Towards the end of the year a Deputy Prison Superintendent and a Chief Officer qualified as a master tailor were sent to the United Kingdom on training courses. While on leave in the United Kingdom, the Acting Director of Prisons attended a course arranged by the Colonial Office from the 24th of June to the 12th of July, 1956.

The reorganized earning scheme was progressing satisfactorily.

No "Borstal" system exists in the territory but every effort is made to segregate the age group concerned. The number of youths between the ages of 17 to 21 years admitted during the year was 244, of whom about 93 would have been suitable for "Borstal" training.

The Approved School for boys under 17 years of age is not a responsibility of the Prison Service and is administered by the Social Development Department (see p. 71).

The Prison Department has on its establishment a Discharged Prisoners' Agent. The title is slightly misleading, for this officer not only looks after the interest of ex-prisoners but is instrumental in collecting a large number of fines, arranging bail and contacting the families of offenders. In conjunction with the Labour Department, the Social Welfare Department and local employers he is active in finding work for discharged prisoners.

The Voluntary Prisoners After-care Association, which was begun four years ago, still receives small monetary grants from the Government, through the Director of Prisons, to enable it to assist discharged prisoners. A donation of £25 was received from the Secretary of the Commonwealth Association of Prisoners' Aid Societies and was greatly appreciated : local support has however been very limited.

## *Chapter 10 : Public Utilities*

### ELECTRICITY

ALL public electricity supplies in Sierra Leone are administered by the Government Electricity Department, which is responsible for the operation, maintenance and development of existing systems as well as the planning and erection of new supply systems.

The Freetown system is the largest in Sierra Leone and units



generated in 1956 were 12,500,000 with a maximum sustained load of 2970 kW. Total installed generating capacity is 5,200 kW and further increases in generating capacity are in hand.

The first section of Stage II of the Colony Rural Scheme was put into commission in December. This operates at 11 kV and aluminium alloy conductors are used throughout.

In the Provinces, electricity undertakings at Bo, Kenema, Lungi, Magburaka, Rokupr, Njala and Bonthe operated successfully during the year. A new system was put into commission at Koyeima in November and the Minister of Works and Transport formally commissioned the new Port Loko Undertaking in December. Further sections of the 3.3 kV systems at Bo and Magburaka were put into service during the year and the 11 kV system at Bo was completed. The total generating capacity in the provincial stations at the 31st of December was 1,770 kW and a further 550 kW of plant are to be installed in the near future in existing stations. Total units generated in 1956 were 1,973,000 representing a 55 per cent increase over 1955, and planning for new supply systems at Kambia, Makeni and Moyamba was in an advanced stage.

Voltages are standardised throughout these systems and are :

Low Tension—400 volts three phase—230 volts single phase.

High Tension—3,300 volts and 11,000 volts three phase.

All supplies are at 50 cycles.

Tariffs in 1956 were at the following rates :

Freetown—Domestic, 10*d.* to 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ *d.* per unit according to quantity utilised. Power 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ *d.* per unit plus fixed charge per kVA. There are also rates for general commercial use and bulk rates. Special contract rates can be arranged.

Tariffs in the Provinces were on the same bases but are higher.

#### WATER SUPPLIES

Progress continued on the investigation, design and installation of water supplies to towns in the Provinces, but was retarded by the resignation of the engineer-in-charge, for whom it was not possible to recruit a replacement. Eleven supply schemes have been completed since 1950. The pumping main for the Bo Water Supply project (£350,000) was completed and part of the distribution main laid.

As stated in Part I (p. 8) £25,000 worth of work was done on the Freetown Water Supply Scheme.

## Chapter 11 : Communications

### SHIPPING

#### *Freetown and Pepel*

Freetown, the capital and major port has anchorage room for 240 ships of unrestricted draft and berths for three ships alongside the new Queen Elizabeth II Quay, which is 1,250 ft. long with a depth of 32 ft. of water at Mean Low Water Ordinary Springs. Oil bunkers can now be obtained by ships alongside the Quay. Ships also berth alongside Kissy Oil Jetty for oil bunkers or to discharge various types of fuel into the Oil Storage Company's tanks. Approximately 1,000 ships a year call at Freetown. Pilots and tugs are available. Pilotage is compulsory for ships berthing alongside the Quay or Jetty.

Lighters are available for loading and discharging whilst at anchor and all export chrome ore cargoes are loaded from lighters.

The entrance to the harbour is marked by the Fairway Buoy and Cape Sierra Leone Lighthouse, and a Radio D/F Beacon transmits to all shipping from the Government Signal Station on Aberdeen Hill.

The Cable and Wireless Company has a branch at Freetown.

The Railway Department is responsible for the administration of the Customs Area of the Port of Freetown, embracing a deep-water quay for ocean going vessels, lighter berths, transit sheds and the provision and maintenance of crane facilities. The traffic handled over the wharves amounted to 392,455 tons compared with 326,626 tons in 1955. Stevedoring and shore handling operations, formerly carried out by ships' agents and landing contractors, became the sole responsibility of the Railway Administration as from 1st May, 1954, when the newly formed Port Management Branch commenced operating. On 1st October, 1954, responsibility for lighterage was also undertaken. Operating expenses were £281,145 as compared with £205,872 in the first full year's work, while receipts rose to £385,284 from £310,347.

The iron ore port of Pepel lies 12 miles upriver from Freetown. Vessels are berthed alongside a knuckle and the ore is loaded by means of conveyor belt. The maximum loaded draft permitted in the channel from Pepel to Freetown Harbour is 28 ft. at Springs.

#### *Port of Sherbro*

The port of Sherbro is used as terminus for the produce of the south and south-east district of Sierra Leone. Export produce is lightered down to ocean-going vessels which anchor at Yangsai Tree, eight miles below the town of Sherbro; the maximum draft permitted is 24 ft. 6 ins.



### *Tagrin Point Jetty*

Tagrin Point jetty is used to embark and disembark air passengers, stores etc., for Lungi Airport. A frequent launch ferry service between the Government Wharf in Freetown and Tagrin is maintained throughout the year.

### *Main Shipping Lines*

The main shipping lines consist of Messrs. Elder Dempster Lines Limited, Messrs. Palm Line Limited and the Holland West Afrika Lijn, which between them provide services to and from the United Kingdom, the Continent and ports as far south as the Belgian Congo, with an average of 30 ships a month in each direction. Swedish, Danish and German ships to the agency of Messrs. Holmen's Limited maintain a fairly regular service of about eight ships a month to and from Continental and Scandinavian ports as well as southwards to Angola.

### *River Transport*

Recognised launch routes, including the coastwise route from Freetown northwards to the towns on the Great and Little Scarcies Rivers and southwards to Bonthe, total almost 500 miles. Rock bars and rapids restrict the use of the upper reaches of the country's rivers but some of the river routes included in this total are navigable by launches during a period of about three months in the year when the rivers are in flood. Nevertheless a considerable amount of the territory's produce is still transported by waterways and a fair number of passengers continue to travel in launches and local craft. Many locally-built and privately-owned launches call at riverside villages when required. Large numbers of native sailing craft known as "Bullom Boats" transport local foodstuffs and passengers to and from the Bullom Shores three days a week across Freetown Harbour.

## RAILWAY

The main line of the Sierra Leone Railway runs in an easterly direction from Freetown to Pendembu, a distance of  $227\frac{1}{2}$  miles. A branch line from Bauya Junction,  $64\frac{1}{4}$  miles from Freetown, runs north-east to Makeni in the Northern Province, a distance of  $83\frac{3}{4}$  miles. The railway, which is of 2 ft. 6 inch gauge, was originally constructed as a development railway to open up trade in the hinterland. It follows a devious course throughout its length and this, combined with heavy gradients and river crossings, is responsible for its exceptionally high operating costs.

Much of the permanent way is between 40 and 50 years old and is in need of complete renewal. One hundred and twenty miles of new 35 lb. and 40 lb. plain track material was ordered in 1951 and approximately  $60\frac{1}{2}$  miles had been relaid by the end of 1956.

During 1956 the Railway carried 117,511 tons of paying traffic compared with 95,403 tons in 1955.

The ton mileage of goods traffic was 18,786,567 as compared with 14,438,662 in 1955. Goods revenue amounted to £380,077 compared with £294,433 in 1955.

The number of passenger journeys was 1,502,673 compared with 1,352,620 in 1955 and the passenger miles 43,574,649 compared with 40,177,364 in 1955. The passenger revenue amounted to £264,551 compared with £238,883 in 1955.

Gross receipts were £1,049,147, an increase of £188,776 over the previous year. Gross expenditure including expenditure on extraordinary works amounted to £1,336,417 compared with £917,842 Railway and £205,871 Port in 1955. The percentage of working expenditure to gross receipts was 127.38 as against 130.607 in 1955.

A private railway owned by the Sierra Leone Development Company, Limited, runs from Marampa to Pepel, a distance of 57½ miles. It is of 3 ft. 6 in. gauge and carries all the iron ore mined by the Company ; it is not available for use by the public.

#### ROADS AND VEHICLES

The following was the mileage of the different types of roads in Sierra Leone in 1956 :

	<i>Miles</i>
First-class roads maintained by the Public Works Department . . . . .	1,574
Roads maintained by local government bodies (District Councils, Native Administrations, etc.) . . . . .	1,389
Roads owned and maintained by private companies . . . . .	180

All government roads and most of the remainder are motorable throughout the year, though occasionally ferries are closed for a few days at a time because of abnormal flooding or the need for repairs.

The following was the number of vehicles licensed in Sierra Leone in 1956 :

Lorries and buses . . . . .	1,833
Motor cars . . . . .	2,979
Motor cycles . . . . .	166

The miles operated, revenue collected and passengers carried by the bus services during the year amounted to 893,294, £77,313 4s. 8d. and 4,391,101 (not including season-ticket holders) respectively, as compared with 786,503, £64,696 19s. 11d. and 3,495,701 (not including season-ticket holders) in 1955.

The bus services were extended by the introduction on the 22nd May, 1956, of a daily bus service between Freetown and Waterloo, via Hastings.



The arrival of seven Albion single-deck and two Leyland double-deck buses did much to help cater for the increasing number of passengers wishing to travel by bus, but the delay in the delivery of the remaining six Albion single-deck buses prevented further improvements to the existing services.

The miles operated by the departmental and general service vehicles during the year amounted to 611,351.

Seventy-nine new vehicles of various types were received by Government departments (excluding the Public Works Department) and 34 vehicles were withdrawn as being unfit for further service.

Bodies were built on 21 new chassis and 11 bodies rebuilt during the year.

Of 139 accidents involving the Department's vehicles during the year, 46 were considered to be the fault of its drivers; 6 cases were awaiting decisions.

Four African officers were selected for further training in the United Kingdom in stores accounting and organisation, electrical work, coach building and mechanical work.

Twenty apprentices began their practical training with the department on January 2nd, 1956, having spent the previous six months at the Freetown Technical Institute. Courses of instruction in such subjects as "training within industry", fuel injection and Diesel engines continued to be given.

#### AIR

The only international airport within the territory is at Lungi on the northern bank of the Sierra Leone River opposite Freetown. access to Lungi from Freetown is by launch and bus. The airport is available for use between dawn and dusk during which period air traffic control services are provided. Meteorological and wireless telegraphy services are maintained continuously.

The new control tower was occupied from early May and the programme of reconstruction of the runway continued during the year.

Work was carried out on the construction of airfields within the territory. Landing grounds will be available at Port Loko and Magburaka in early 1957, in addition to existing airfields at Hastings, Waterloo and Bo. New landing grounds were also developed by the Sierra Leone Selection Trust at Yengema and Tongo and by the Diamond Corporation of Sierra Leone at Kenema. All these strips are suitable for light aircraft only.

Non-scheduled movements of aircraft increased very substantially by virtue of the operation of the Beaver Aircraft of the Sierra Leone Selection Trust and the Diamond Corporation of Sierra Leone. With the development of internal flying within the territory, plans are in hand to improve existing internal radio links so as to provide adequate communications for Air Traffic Control.

Scheduled services in and out of Freetown Airport in 1956 were :

*West African Airways.* Lagos/Accra/Abidjan/Robertsfield/Freetown/Bathurst/Dakar. Twice weekly in each direction.

These services provided connections from Dakar to Europe by various foreign airlines and connections at Robertsfield and Accra.

*Air France.* Scheduled services were maintained between Conakry—Freetown—Robertsfield or Monrovia at a frequency of two or three times weekly.

These services connected with Europe by Super Constellation from Conakry.

*Hunting Clan/Airwork Safari Service.* These two airlines operated alternately once a week giving a weekly service between the United Kingdom and Accra, via Freetown and Bathurst, with night stops at Bathurst and Tangier.

*Eagle Aviation Limited.* A weekly trooping service has been operated through Freetown by the above company since the end of May, 1956.

Hitherto, trooping flights during 1956 had been carried out by Air Charter Limited, Scottish Aviation Limited and Eagle Aviation Limited.

Details of aircraft movements and of passengers and freight handled during the year were as follows :

<i>Aircraft Movements</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Freight</i>	<i>Kgs.</i>
Scheduled Services .	1,121	Loaded . . . . .	10,781
Non-scheduled Services .	234	Unloaded . . . . .	43,861
Private Aircraft . . . . .	790	Transit . . . . .	27,140
R.A.F. and Military . . . . .	46		
Others . . . . .	104		
		TOTAL . . . . .	81,782
TOTAL . . . . .	2,295		
<i>Passengers Handled</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Mail</i>	<i>Kgs.</i>
Embarking . . . . .	4,373	Loaded . . . . .	8,706.6
Disembarking . . . . .	5,397	Unloaded . . . . .	20,817.2
Transit . . . . .	4,759		
		TOTAL . . . . .	29,523.8
TOTAL . . . . .	14,529		

#### POSTAL SERVICES

The air mail service to and from the United Kingdom operated four times weekly via Dakar and Accra whilst the fortnightly mail boat service to and from the United Kingdom and other British West African territories continued in operation. Direct air mails were also exchanged with the U.S.A., South Africa and other West African territories. Internal rail, road and carrier mail services were satisfactorily maintained, and the number of post offices and postal agencies was increased to 118.



All classes of postal, telegraph and telephone business continued to show a steady increase, and the balance due to depositors in the Post Office Savings Bank increased during the year to £1,531,578, whilst the number of depositors rose from 58,240 to 62,936.

A new pictorial issue of postage revenue stamps bearing the portrait of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was placed on sale on the 2nd January, 1956, and the King George VI issue, which had been on sale since 1938, was withdrawn from public sale on the 21st July, 1956.

#### TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Expansion of the telephone service continued and 295 new subscribers were connected, bringing the total number of subscribers to 1,346 with 1,165 extensions. A new telephone exchange was brought into service at Makeni and extensions to the distributions system were effected at Freetown, Bo, Makeni and Magburaka. A trunk telephone service was introduced between Bo and Kenema and work was in progress to extend the service to Pendembu. A radio-telephone service was established between Freetown and Kambia and an additional radio-telephone link was brought into service between Freetown and Lungi Airport. An extensive Telecommunications Development Plan has been approved, utilising V.H.F. radio-telephone circuits, and work on its implementation has commenced. Radio networks operated by the Police, the Harbour Master and the Fisheries Research Institute continued to be maintained by the Posts and Telegraphs Department.

### Chapter 12 : Press, Films, Broadcasting and Government Information Services

#### PRESS

THE following newspapers and periodicals were published in 1956 :

<i>Title</i>	<i>Frequency of Publication</i>	<i>Language</i>	<i>Address</i>
<i>Daily Mail</i>	daily	English	29 Rawdon Street, Freetown
<i>Daily Guardian</i>	„	„	31 Oxford Street, Freetown
<i>Evening Dispatch</i>	„	„	3 Garrison Street, Freetown
<i>African Vanguard</i>	tri-weekly	„	5 Wellington Street, Freetown
<i>Sierra Leone Observer</i>	weekly	„	3 Hospital Road, Bo
<i>Sierra Leone Hurricane</i>	„	„	City Hotel Annexe, Freetown

Title	Frequency of Publication	Language	Address
<i>The Advance</i> . . . . .	„	„	51 Dambarra Road, Bo
<i>Weekly Bulletin</i> . . . . .	„	„	Public Relations Department, Sierra Leone, Freetown
<i>The Ten-Daily-News</i> . . . . .	every ten days	„	3 George Street, Freetown
<i>Seme Loki</i> . . . . .	monthly	Mende	Protectorate Litera- ture Bureau, P.O. Box 28, Bo
<i>The Catholic Monthly</i> . . . . .	„	English	P.O. 98, Freetown
<i>The Gospel Bells</i> . . . . .	fortnightly	„	5 Frederick Street, Freetown
<i>Sierra Leone Studies</i> . . . . .	quarterly	„	Fourah Bay College, Freetown
<i>The Sierra Leone Police Magazine</i> . . . . .	half-yearly	„	Police Headquarters, Freetown

## BROADCASTING

Direct Broadcasting from a 5 kW transmitter continued, and 1956 was devoted to expansion of the programme and to preparing for an increase in the hours of daily broadcasting.

The year began with an average broadcasting time of eight hours a week for locally initiated programmes out of a total of 29 hours a week, but by the end of the year this had been stepped up to 13¼ hours of programmes compiled from local material.

The Public Relations Department was responsible for the production of programmes in the Sierra Leone Broadcasting Service and the Freetown Rediffusion system. The engineering operations were in the charge of the Posts and Telegraphs Department, which installed a standby transmitter during the year. Local programmes included daily news bulletins in English, Mende and Temne, weekly newsletter in Susu, Kono, Limba, Mandingo, Kissi and Foulah, party political broadcasts, religious programmes, music and variety, band concerts, plays, discussions in English, Mende and Temne, sports commentaries and talks, schools broadcasts commentaries on West African countries, gramophone record programmes, women's magazine, talks on books, children's programmes in English and Mende, news magazines, and outside broadcasts.

Noteworthy outside broadcasts during the year were: the Queen's Birthday Parade, the swearing-in of the new Governor, Mr. M. H. Dorman, the Sierra Leone—Gambia football match and the SLBS 'Top Team schools' quiz programmes.

The B.B.C. General Overseas Service (including the regional programme "Calling West Africa") was relayed each day over Rediffusion for a total of 67 hours a week.

The number of licenses for private radio sets in the territory increased from 1,704 to 2,444 (Colony 1,378 ; Protectorate 1,066) and the number of subscribers to the Freetown Rediffusion Service rose from 3,740 to 4,051.



During the year the Governor appointed a Broadcasting Advisory Board, which met monthly, and in July the Legislative Council approved the appointment of a Director of Broadcasting.

The Public Address Equipment was used at a number of official and unofficial functions.

#### FILMS

Film shows were given to almost two million people during the year, the main emphasis being on election education. Teams visited centres in the Protectorate carrying cinema equipment.

In addition a regular series of general interest films was given countrywide showing.

The three commercial cinemas (two in Freetown and one in Bo) and the two non-commercial cinemas at the mining centres of Marampa and Yengema continued to receive on repayment supplies of 35 mm. newsreels and documentaries from the Central Office of Information, London.

Several 16 mm. films and filmstrips were added to the film library maintained by the Public Relations Department and were made available to the British Council, missions, educational institutions and Government Departments.

#### INFORMATION SERVICES

During the year the Public Relations Department continued to fulfil its main purpose of disseminating information and interpreting the policy of the Government to the people through the media of the press, publications, the cinema, photographs, broadcasting and posters. The Department maintained close and cordial relations with newspapers.

Press representatives visited Government establishments and saw the opening of bridges and District Council elections in the Provinces. Fifteen press conferences were held in Freetown during the year.

Complete coverage was supplied for the sittings of the Commission of Inquiry into the Provincial Disturbances under the chairmanship of Sir Herbert Cox, the visit of the Minister of State for the Colonies, Mr. John Hare, sittings of the Legislative Council (summaries of the proceedings of which were broadcast daily during sessions) the visits of Ministers and officials to the United Kingdom and many other important events.

The Department supplied daily radio news bulletins which were also issued as a free news service to the press. Reports on events in Sierra Leone were cabled to the press section of the Colonial Office and used in Central Office of Information news bulletins sent all over the world.

On one occasion the Department supplied information for the B.B.C's. "Radio Newsreel."



The *Weekly Bulletin*, published by the Department increased its circulation from 5,500 to 6,500. This publication which contains a summary of local events and of government activities, is widely circulated in the Provinces, where the Department is increasing its supply of other types of reading material.

Acknowledgement must once again be made of the generous and valuable material supplied free of charge by the Central Office of Information through the Colonial Office. The supply included films, filmstrips, stereos and press material for local newspapers, newspapers, periodicals, books, posters, pictures and picture-sets. In addition the Department purchased in bulk newspapers and periodicals which were regularly supplied to schools, native administrations, libraries and other institutions in the Provinces, where they were greatly appreciated. There is evidence that the demand for reading and visual material is growing and the Department endeavours to ensure that equitable distribution is maintained, particularly in areas where reading material is not readily obtainable.

The Department organised a country-wide publicity campaign for the local government elections and for the general elections due in 1957. It also assisted in the Yaws Campaign, the Premium Bond Campaign, the move by the Sierra Leone Society to open a museum, the appeal for the Sierra Leone Sports Stadium, a campaign to destroy the rhinoceros beetle in coconut trees, the West African Students' Union's appeal for a centre in London, a drive to improve the health of Freetown, the Government Loan and various agricultural shows. A special team gave publicity in the Northern Province to the Government statement on the Cox Commission report, especially in the Port Loko and Samu areas.

The photographic staff travelled extensively and covered every important event of general news interest. Prints of the photographs they took have been supplied to the press in Freetown and London. Many of their photographs have been used in publications dealing with West African affairs. In addition photographs were supplied for display in Freetown, London and New York.

Plans were laid during the year for the expansion of the Information Services in the Provinces. The first step in this expansion was taken in August when an Information Assistant was posted to the South-Eastern Province. Plans for Information Centres in the three Provinces were drawn up and sites obtained in two of them.

### *Chapter 13 : Local Forces*

THE principal military force in Sierra Leone is the 1st Battalion of the Sierra Leone Regiment, Royal West African Frontier Force. The Sierra Leone Signal Squadron and a unit of the West African Army Service Corps are also stationed in the territory.



The Sierra Leone Regiment traces its history back to the Sierra Leone Frontier Police raised in 1890 for service in the Colony and more particularly in the adjacent territories of what was later to become the Protectorate. The force was recruited from the local African tribes and included a number of transfers from the civil police. Its strength, including officers, was 288. At that time it was employed in the protection of the Colony's interests in the adjacent territories before the formal establishment of the Protectorate in 1896.

In 1898 the "Frontiers," together with other forces were engaged in quelling the widespread rising in protest against the imposition of the hut tax in the newly constituted Protectorate. Later, columns marched through the Protectorate to show the flag and assist in the pacification of troubled areas.

A detachment of the "Frontiers" took part in the Ashanti Campaign of 1900-01 in the Gold Coast. They were employed as scouts and were highly regarded as the only members of the force trained in bush warfare.

The year 1902 marked the creation of the Sierra Leone Battalion of the West African Frontier Force. All officers received military rank and the battalion had an establishment of 600 rank and file.

In 1903 the Battalion was reorganised on a basis of five companies, each of 98 rank and file.

In 1905 the Battalion took part in operations against raiding Kissis who came chiefly from French and Liberian territory.

In 1906 the Moa Barracks were built at Daru and this remained the headquarters of the Battalion until 1928.

During the first World War two companies of the Battalion saw service in Togoland and later in the Cameroons where they took part in the capture of Duala. The remainder of the Battalion also went to the Cameroons. After the campaign the Battalion returned to Daru.

In 1928 the W.A.F.F. received the honour of becoming a "Royal" Force. In that year the Battalion moved to Freetown to relieve the West African Regiment which was disbanded.

In 1940 a 2nd Battalion of the Sierra Leone Regiment was formed. This Battalion remained in Sierra Leone during the war. The 1st Battalion was included in the 6th West African Infantry Brigade with Battalions from the Gambia and Nigeria. This Brigade was trained in Nigeria with the 81st West African Infantry Division and went with that formation to India in 1943. The Battalion saw active service in the Second and Third Arakan campaigns of 1944-45. It took part in the operations which led to the capture of Myohaung in January, 1945, when the 81st (W.A.) Division linked up with the 82nd (W.A.) Division.

After the war the 2nd Battalion was disbanded and the 1st Battalion returned to Freetown. The Regiment's Training Centre is still based at the old headquarters at Daru.

The 1st Battalion is employed now chiefly on internal security duties and on ceremonial parades. It is well up to strength and in the happy position of being able to select its recruits since there are so many volunteers for service in the Sierra Leone Forces.

At the end of the year, the Sierra Leone Naval Volunteer Force continued to muster four officers and over seventy ratings.



## PART III

### *Chapter 1 : Geography and Climate*

#### *Geography*

The territory comprising the Colony and Protectorate of Sierra Leone has an area of some 27,925 square miles, (about the size of Ireland), roughly circular in shape, lying between  $6^{\circ}55''$  and  $10^{\circ}$  north latitude and  $10^{\circ}16''$  and  $13^{\circ}18''$  of west longitude. It has a sea coast 210 miles in length, extending from the French Guinea border to the border of the Republic of Liberia. Inland it has common frontiers with only these two territories.

The Colony, i.e., the territory acquired by the Crown by treaty of cession or otherwise, consists of the Sierra Leone Peninsula (including Freetown), Sherbro Island and various other islands and small islets.

The peninsula is about 25 miles in length and from 10 to 12 miles in breadth at its widest part. It is formed of a range of igneous mountains running parallel to the sea, the summits of the highest of which rise in conical form to a height of 2,000 to 3,000 feet. The mountains, composed principally of norite, are thickly wooded, and are intersected by ravines and small valleys. Freetown lies at the northern end of this peninsula, at the foot of steep hills, about four miles up the Sierra Leone river. It possesses one of the finest natural harbours in West Africa and, being one of the few points on the coast of Africa where there is high land near the sea, is a place of considerable interest and beauty. The western side of the peninsula, on the sea-coast, has a number of agreeable beaches and coves.

The Protectorate, an area of about 27,656 square miles, varies considerably in different localities. The coastal strip is flat and low-lying, and the river estuaries, below high-tide mark, are bounded by extensive mangrove swamps. The western and southern part of the Protectorate consists of rolling wooded country broken in places by ranges of hills rising to 1,000 feet or more. The ground rises to the north and east to form an upland plateau having a general elevation of about 1,500 feet. The Sula and Kangari hills rise to nearly 3,000 feet and, to the east, near the French Guinea frontier, Bintimane peak and the summits of the Tingi range rise to above 6,000 feet. Unlike many regions on the west coast of Africa, the country is well watered by a network of rivers and streams, the general direction of flow of which is from the north-east to the south-west and into the Atlantic Ocean. The principal rivers are navigable by small

craft for various distances, and provide useful water-ways, especially during the rainy season.

Climate

The climate of Sierra Leone is of the equatorial type, with two main phases, a dry season from mid-November to mid-April and a wet season from mid-April to mid-November. At the onset and cessation of the wet season violent thunderstorms occur, sometimes accompanied by squalls (commonly but erroneously known as tornadoes) which can reach a maximum velocity of 40—45 m.p.h. A dry north-easterly wind (the “harmattan”) may blow at intervals during December, January and February and at this time visibility is restricted by the fine dust which the wind usually carries with it from the Sahara. Visibility after the first few storms in the rainy season is, however, good, and frequently the mountains of French Guinea may be seen from the hills above Freetown, a distance of about 80 miles.

Geographically speaking, the country can be divided into three climatic belts, running roughly parallel with the coast, north-west to south-east :

- (i) from the coast to 50 miles inland ;
  - (ii) 50 to 120 miles inland ;
  - and (iii) 120 miles inland to the eastern frontier.
- Mean rainfall in these belts is of the order for (i) of 130 inches or more, the highest long-term mean on record being 212 inches, although a raingauge in the Freetown hills has recorded 319 inches in a year ; for (ii) of 100-130 inches ; and for (iii) of 75-100 inches. In belt (i) 60-70 per cent of the annual rainfall is likely to occur in the period from July to September.; in (ii) 50-60 per cent and in (iii) 45-50 per cent during the same period.

Temperatures and relative humidity show greater variation inland than in the coastal area. The mean daily average of temperature on the coast is 10° Fahrenheit and the range of relative humidity is 12 per cent, while inland the mean daily ranges of temperature may vary from 15° to 20° Fahrenheit and of humidity from 25 per cent to 30 per cent.

Mean Temperature and Rainfall for Selected Stations in 1956.

Station	Height above Mean Sea level	Annual Mean Max.	Temperature Min.	Rainfall
	<i>Fect</i>	<i>Deg. F.</i>	<i>Deg. F.</i>	<i>Inches</i>
Freetown . . .	37	84.4	75.2	108.2
Lungi . . .	82	85.2	73.3	112.0
Kabala . . .	1,522	86.2	67.3	78.8
Bo . . .	302	87.2	70.2	109.0
Bonthe . . .	10	85.6	73.5	124.3
Daru . . .	624	86.5	69.3	102.6



## *Chapter 2 : History*

The first written records of Sierra Leone are those of the Portuguese voyagers of discovery in the 15th century. Pedro da Cintra gave it its name about the year 1460 and in the succeeding decades the Portuguese built, but after a few years abandoned, a fortress on the shore of the Sierra Leone river. Adventurers from other countries soon followed, not as colonisers but as pirates and slave-traders. Sir John Hawkins, who came on a slave-raiding expedition in 1562 was probably the first Englishman to land here. Drake called in during his voyage round the world. A few relics of these early voyages still survive—the name “Pirates’ Bay,” the stone buried in Freetown bearing the names of the Dutch Admirals De Ruyter and Van Meppel who took in water at the stream there in 1664, and the ruins of the fort on Bunce Island with its slave-barracoons and churchyard. There were also barracoons on the neighbouring Tasso and Gambia Islands, and indeed all along the coast from the Rio Pongas down to the Sherbro and to Sulima.

The Colony of Sierra Leone was founded as an attempt to atone for the horrors of this slave trade. Granville Sharp, a friend of Wilberforce and a leader in the movement to abolish slavery, designed it as a home for slaves freed and destitute in England. In 1787 he sent out the first settlers to what he called “The Province of Freedom,” where they were granted a strip of land on the north shore of the peninsula by the Temne King Naimbanna and there founded Freetown. In 1789 the settlers quarrelled with the neighbouring King Jimmy, who destroyed the town and drove them away. But in 1790 the enterprise was taken on by the Sierra Leone Company, of which Sharp was a director, more settlers were sent out, and in 1792 Lieutenant John Clarkson, the first Governor, brought over 300 who had been freed after the American War of Independence, and then uncomfortably settled in Nova Scotia. They were joined in 1800 by a group of Maroons, former slaves, sent from Jamaica after an insurrection.

The land did not prove as fertile as it had been described ; the settlement was attacked at intervals by neighbouring tribes (aided sometimes by discontented settlers) ; and in 1794 it was sacked by a French squadron.

After the last Temne raid in 1803 the invasions ceased. The Sierra Leone Company was given a Royal Charter in 1799, and Freetown, already laid out with its regular street-plan, was given a corporation with mayor and aldermen. But the Company was unable to meet the heavy burdens of defence and settlement, and in 1808 Sierra Leone was transferred to the Crown. In 1807 Parliament had passed an Act making the slave trade illegal ; the new Colony was to be a

base from which that Act could be enforced. A naval squadron was stationed on the coast to intercept slave ships and a Court of Vice-Admiralty set up in Freetown to try slave traders. When other nations agreed to prohibit slaving it was supplemented in 1819, by a Court of Mixed Commission where British and foreign judges heard slave cases jointly.

The first slave ship was condemned, and its cargo freed, in 1808. From then on, hundreds, and in some years thousands, of slaves were freed every year, most of them remaining in Sierra Leone. The whole of the Peninsula was ceded by the Temne chiefs and most of the liberated were settled in villages round it. As the Colony could raise little revenue a parliamentary grant, administered by the British Treasury through a special Liberated African Department, provided for the villagers and for churches and schools in the villages.

These Liberated Africans, or "Creoles," as they came to be called, came from all parts of Africa. Cut off from their homes, they tended to adopt the original settlers' style of living ; cut off from their traditions they proved a fruitful field for missionaries. From 1804 the Church Missionary Society and from 1810 the Methodists, had missions here ; from the first there had been Methodist congregations among the Nova Scotians, with their own preachers and chapels. Education was left to the churches, the Liberated African Department providing only school buildings in the villages. In 1845, when the Department was greatly reduced, they were all handed over to the missions. The C.M.S. had already started an institution for training for the ministry at Fourah Bay in 1827. By 1861 they had trained enough clergy to allow the mission to withdraw from the Colony and to provide the villages with African pastors under the direction of a European bishop. In 1876 the institution was affiliated to Durham University as Fourah Bay College. Only in this century has the Government, working through the Education Department, taken an active part in establishing new schools and given grants to existing ones.

Though the Liberated African Department was reduced in 1845, the slave trade still continued and was not extirpated until the eighteen-sixties. The Court of Mixed Commission was finally abolished in 1870. The population, increasing steadily with every capture, by the middle of the century exceeded 40,000, about 16,000 of whom lived in Freetown. Legitimate trade with the interior succeeded the slave trade. The timber trade, started about 1815, flourished until the fine forest timber in and near the Colony was all cut down ; after 1840 groundnuts, and later palm oil and kernels, were exported. Many of the Liberated Africans set up as traders on a large scale. Not until the eighteen-sixties was there serious competition from European firms, and only in this century from Syrians. Freetown became the centre for the trading factories gradually established in the Sherbro, the Rokel, and the Scarcies



ivers. Thus the Colony's interests began to extend beyond the peninsula.

The Isles de Los were taken over in 1816 ; the Banana Islands were leased from the Caulker family in 1820. In 1825 Governor Turner made a treaty of cession with all the Sherbro chiefs but it was disallowed by the Secretary of State. In general, British colonial policy for the greater part of the 19th century disapproved of any expansion of the existing colonies. Succeeding Governors did, however, make treaties of friendship with neighbouring chiefs, usually with a clause prohibiting the slave trade. In 1845 Bai Sherbro ceded a nominal sovereignty over the coast line of the Bullom shore, north to the Scarcies. By 1861 trade in the Sherbro country was important enough for the Secretary of State to allow Governor Hill to take over Sherbro Island and a strip of the mainland as a part of the Colony. Hill also annexed the Koya country where tribal wars were threatening Waterloo and the Colony's eastern boundary. Part of Koya was restored in 1872 by Governor Kennedy.

The boundaries of these accessions and spheres of influence were at first only roughly defined. The great expansion of the French Empire to the north and Liberian claims to the south made accurate definition necessary. After several fruitless commissions the Liberian frontier was settled in 1885, and rectified again in 1911. The French frontier was defined in 1895. A Protectorate was proclaimed over the British sphere of influence encircled by French territory in 1896, judicially and administratively separate from the Colony. It preserved its tribal framework and was governed by District Commissioners, assisted by the Frontier Police Force (and later, the Court Messenger Force), a semi-military body raised in 1890. The Proclamation was received without incident, but the chiefs did not understand all that it implied. In 1898, following the first attempt to collect tax, many chiefs in the Protectorate came out in revolt and attacked the English-speaking people, both black and white, and about 1,000 British subjects together with some American missionaries were killed. The resulting military operations to suppress this disorder were brought to a successful conclusion early in 1899, and since that date the Protectorate has remained peaceful.

Poor communications in the hinterland were the principal obstacle to the country's economic and social development. At the turn of the century the first section of the Sierra Leone railway was opened, but communication with most areas continued to be by creek and navigable rivers, or by rough bush-paths and head portage. The last section of the railway was completed just before the 1914-18 war. The railway facilitated the export of palm products, and later, as a result of an economic survey in the late twenties, of certain minerals, on which commodities the prosperity of the territory is founded. Road communications outside Freetown did not really exist until 1917-18, and it was not until 1928 that the building of Protect-

orate trunk roads was seriously taken in hand. It was only in 1940 that the road systems of the Protectorate and of the Colony were linked.

In these circumstances economic development has necessarily been slow, but an idea of the progress may be gained from the increase in the territory's revenue from £300,000 in 1906 to more than £9.5 million in 1956.

## Chapter 3 : Administration

### CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

THE constitution of Sierra Leone in force in 1956 is to be found in the following constitutional instruments :

- (i) Letters Patent passed under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom dated 7th April, 1951, and 13th April, 1953, which constitute the office of Governor and the Executive Council and provide for the appointment of Judges and other officers, the grant of pardons and the disposal of Crown lands.
- (ii) The Sierra Leone Protectorate Order in Council, dated 9th April, 1951, as amended by the Sierra Leone Protectorate (Amendment) Order in Council dated 1st April, 1953, which defines the limits of the Protectorate, invests the Governor of the Colony with the power of Governor of the Protectorate, and provides that the Executive Council of the Colony shall also be the Executive Council of the Protectorate.
- (iii) Instructions passed under the Royal Sign Manual and Signet, dated 9th April, 1951, and the Additional Instructions dated 8th April, 1953, relating to the membership, constitution, and procedure of the Executive Council, the responsibilities of Ministers, legislation, the disposition of Crown lands, appointments, and the grant of pardons in capital cases.
- (iv) The Sierra Leone (Legislative Council) Order in Council dated 9th April, 1951, as amended by the Sierra Leone (Legislative Council) (Amendment) Order in Council dated 1st April, 1953, which provides for the constitution, powers and privileges of the Legislative Council, the qualifications for elected and nominated members, the precedence of members, and the legislative power and procedure of the Council.

*The Executive Council* consists of the Governor as President, of four *ex officio* members (the Colonial Secretary, the Chief Commissioner of the Protectorate, the Attorney-General and the Financial Secretary), and of not less than four Ministers, who must



be elected members of the Legislative Council, selected and appointed by the Governor by instrument under the Public Seal, for a term of not more than five years.

The Legislative Council in 1956 consisted of :

- (i) The Governor as president ;
- (ii) A Vice-President, who may or may not be a member of Council ;
- (iii) seven *ex officio* members, (the Colonial Secretary, the Chief Commissioner of the Protectorate, the Attorney General, the Financial Secretary, the Director of Medical Services, the Director of Education and the Director of Agriculture) ;
- (iv) seven persons, elected to represent the seven districts of the Colony ;
- (v) twelve persons elected by the District Councils of the Protectorate ;
- (vi) two persons elected by the unofficial members of the Protectorate Assembly, one being an African nominated to the Assembly by the Governor, the other being an unofficial member of the Assembly representing a District thereon ; and
- (vii) two nominated members, appointed by the Governor by instrument under the Public Seal.

Power was vested in the Governor to appoint persons to be extraordinary members (without voting rights), and to make temporary appointments to fill vacancies among the *ex officio* or nominated members. Decisions in the Legislative Council were reached by a majority of votes, the Governor having neither an original nor a casting vote. If upon any question before the Council, the votes were equally divided, the motion was declared lost. No business except that of adjournment might be transacted if objection was taken by any members present that there were less than 10 members present besides the President, Vice President or other presiding member.

Certain powers are reserved to the Governor to declare that ordinances and motions not passed by the Legislature shall have effect if he considers it expedient in the interests of public order, public faith or good government, subject to consultation with his Executive Council or, if his declaration is contrary to the advice of that Council, to authority being obtained from the Secretary of State. The Governor is required to dissolve the Legislative Council at the end of five years from the last preceding election, if it has not been sooner dissolved. The next elections were due to be held early in 1957, and in November, 1956, a new Order in Council was made providing for replacement of the Legislative Council by a larger House of Representatives. (see p. 6).

## THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, 1956

The Governor (from 1st Sept.).	M. H. Dorman, Esq., C.M.G.
The Colonial Secretary .	A. N. A. Waddell, Esq., C.M.G., D.S.C.
The Chief Commissioner of the Protectorate .	H. Childs, Esq., C.M.G., O.B.E.
The Attorney-General .	A. C. Spurling, Esq., Q.C.
The Financial Secretary .	K. C. Jacobs, Esq., C.B.E.
The Chief Minister and Minister for Health, Agriculture and Forests . . . .	Dr. M. A. S. Margai, M.B.E.
The Minister for Local Government, Educa- tion and Welfare .	A. M. Margai, Esq.
The Minister for Works and Transport .	M. S. Mustapha, Esq.
The Minister for Trade and Commerce, Posts and Telegraphs .	A. G. Randle, Esq., M.B.E.
The Minister for Lands, Mines and Labour .	S. P. Stevens, Esq.
The Minister without Port- folio . . . .	Paramount Chief Bai Farima Tass II

*Clerk of Executive Council*

G. Philipson, Esq., D.F.S.

## THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, 1956

*President*

The Governor

*Vice-President*

E. S. Beoku-Betts, Esq., M.B.E.

*Ex Officio Members*

The Colonial Secretary .	A. N. A. Waddell, Esq., C.M.G., D.S.C.
The Chief Commissioner of the Protectorate .	H. Childs, Esq., C.M.G., O.B.E.
The Attorney-General .	A. C. Spurling, Esq., Q.C.
The Financial Secretary .	K. C. Jacobs, Esq., C.B.E.
The Director of Medical Services . . . .	Dr. T. P. Eddy
The Director of Education	D. H. Creed-Newton, Esq., M.B.E.
The Director of Agricul- ture . . . .	J. D. Goodban, Esq., O.B.E.



*Unofficial Members*

- J. P. Birch, Esq., (Second Nominated Member)  
 Paramount Chief Alimami Jai Kai Kai (Member for Pujehun District)  
 Dr. H. C. Bankole Bright (Member for Freetown Central Electoral District)  
 J. C. O. Crowther, Esq., J.P. (Member for Waterloo and British Koya Electoral District)  
 The Rev. Paul L. Dunbar (Member for Kono District)  
 Paramount Chief Alimami Dura II (Member for Bombali District)  
 C. S. T. Edmondson, Esq., (First Nominated Member)  
 Rev. Dr. W. H. Fitzjohn (Member for Moyamba District)  
 Paramount Chief Kenewa Gamanga (Member for Kenema District)  
 I. T. A. Wallace Johnson, Esq. (Member for Wilberforce and York Electoral District)  
 Lansana Kamara, Esq. (Member for Koinadugu District)  
 Paramount Chief R. B. S. Koker (Member for Bo District)  
 Paramount Chief Bai Kur (Member for Tonkolili District)  
 A. M. Margai, Esq. (First Protectorate Member)  
 Dr. M. A. S. Margai, M.B.E. (Member for Bonthe District)  
 Paramount Chief Alikali Modu III (Member for Port Loko District)  
 M. S. Mustapha, Esq. (Member for Freetown East Electoral District)  
 A. G. Randle, Esq., M.B.E. (Member for Sherbro Electoral District)  
 Paramount Chief A. B. Samba (Member for Kailahun District)  
 Siaka P. Stevens, Esq. (Second Protectorate Member)  
 Paramount Chief Bai Farima Tass II (Member for Kambia District)  
 C. M. A. Thompson, Esq. (Member for Freetown West Electoral District)  
 J. Rogers Williams, Esq. (Member for Kissy and Mountain Electoral District)

*Clerk* : S. V. Wright, Esq.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN THE COLONY

For administrative purposes the territory is divided into the Colony and the Protectorate. The Colony is British territory acquired by purchase or concession, as described in the previous chapter, under treaties entered into with native chiefs and tribal authorities from 1807 onwards. In detail it consists of the Sierra Leone Peninsula, Sherbro Island, the Tasso, Banana, Turtle, Plantain and York Islands, other small islets, and some small areas of territory inland.

Of these areas only the Peninsula of Sierra Leone, Tasso Island, Banana Island, York Island and the township of Bonthe are administered as parts of the Colony, the other areas being administered in every respect as if they were within the Protectorate.

The Colony is administered by the following authorities :

- (a) The Freetown City Council (as constituted under the Freetown Municipality Ordinance Cap. 91) ;
- (b) The local authorities constituted under the Rural Area Ordinance No. 11 of 1949 ;
- (c) The Sherbro Urban District Council.

*Freetown City Council.* The Council consists of the Mayor, aldermen and councillors. Four councillors are elected by each of the three wards of the City ; the Governor in Council may also appoint six councillors of whom at least two must be Africans. After election the councillors in turn elect three aldermen and the Mayor. The normal term of office of councillors is three years and for the Mayor one year.

The Council discharges a number of normal municipal responsibilities, including the provision of a fire brigade, markets and slaughter-houses, public parks and gardens, the care of public cemeteries, the lighting of thoroughfares and the recovery of water rates.

In addition, various "Tribal Headmen" in Freetown have certain prescribed administrative powers over the members of the indigenous tribes who reside within the municipality.

*Rural Area Council.* The Rural Area of the Colony, which comprises the whole Colony Peninsula including the Banana and Tasso Islands, is administered under a three-tier system of local government, which was established in July, 1950. The base of the structure is made up of 28 Village Area Committees. Each of these elects a prescribed number of its members to a Rural District Council. There are six District Councils and they perform the main executive duties of local government ; these include the construction and maintenance of roads, provision of water supplies, parks, gardens, and other public places of recreation and the regulation of markets, slaughter-houses and cemeteries.

Each District Council elects one of its members to the Rural Area Council. The duties of this Council are to act as a channel of communication between the Central Government and the Rural District Councils and Village Area Committees in the performance of their duties. Each Village Area Committee and District Council elects its own chairman. For the first three years of its existence, the Commissioner, Headquarters Judicial and Freetown Police Districts, was appointed President of Rural Area Council by the Governor, but the Council was authorised in March, 1953, to elect one of its elected members to be President, and Mr. R. G. O. King was subsequently elected.



Instead of the former house tax of 5s. per house, the Rural Area Council is empowered to impose a rural area rate and the village Area Committees are likewise empowered to impose a village improvement cess. The rural area rate on the assessed value of premises for 1956 was 1s. 6d. in the £. In addition the Village Area Committee imposed village improvement cesses ranging from 3d. to 1s. 10d. in the £.

A Five-Year Plan of Economic Development of the area makes provision for the improvement of road communications, increased production of oil palm, fruits, vegetables and fish, which it is hoped will result in a general rise in the standard of living of the people in the area.

*Sherbro Urban District Council.* The Sherbro Urban District which includes the town of Bonthe, York Island and adjacent small islands, lies within the District of Bonthe. The Sherbro Urban District is administered as part of the Colony, while the rest of Bonthe District (the greater part) is administered by the District Commissioner as part of the Protectorate.

The Sherbro Urban District Council Ordinance, 1950, makes provision for a Sherbro Urban District Council, consisting of eight councillors, of whom two are elected by each of the three wards into which the District is divided, one is nominated by the Governor, and one is the Medical Officer, Bonthe. One of the elected councillors is President. The Council exercises functions similar to those exercised by the Freetown City Council and by the various local authorities created under the Rural Area Ordinance, No. 11 of 1949.

#### LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN THE PROTECTORATE

The Protectorate is divided into 12 administrative districts, each in the charge of a District Commissioner. These districts are grouped into three Provinces, which are administered by Provincial Commissioners to whom the District Commissioners are directly responsible. The Provincial Commissioners are responsible to the Chief Commissioner, whose headquarters are at Bo and who is responsible to the Governor for the general administration of the whole Protectorate.

It may be helpful to preface this brief account of the administration of the Protectorate with a word or two regarding the duties of the district administrative staff. In his administrative capacity, a District Commissioner is the representative of the Colonial Government in the district committed to his charge. On him the success of the whole system of government depends. It is his part to integrate the efforts of others, both official and unofficial, and to direct them into the most productive courses. His enthusiasm, energy and example bear fruit in direct proportion to the degree in which they are displayed and there can be few jobs of importance to-day in

which these qualities are more vital, or their effect more quickly apparent in the results they produce.

As in other parts of Africa, the basis of social life is the family. Either for protection, or for co-operation in husbandry, or through inter-marriage, families have combined to form villages. The villages have for similar reasons combined to form the extended village, or section, while a number of sections constitute the chiefdom which is the principal administrative unit of the Protectorate. Altogether there are 147 of these chiefdoms. The estimated total population of the Protectorate in 1952 was over 1,880,000 giving an average of over 12,500 in each chiefdom. Each is in the charge of a paramount chief, who is elected and assisted by an advisory council, known as the tribal authority which is composed of the section chiefs and sub-chiefs and the headmen of the larger villages, together with a number of elders who no longer take any active part in public life, but whose opinions and advice are respected. At the present time, tribal authorities are not rigidly constituted, but any attempt on the part of a chief to give preference to his own friends is resisted.

In 1936 a measure of organised local administration was introduced as an experiment in two chiefdoms. Chiefdom treasuries were established and all males of marriageable age were required to pay an annual tax, assessable in the same manner as the Government house tax, in return for which they were relieved of the communal services formerly required of them. Since their establishment the rate of tax has been increased in all chiefdoms and at present stands at 25s. In addition, court fees and fines, together with any other fees ordinarily paid personally to a chief, were credited to the public revenue of the chiefdom. From these revenues the chief and other officials were paid fixed stipends, and payments were made for services which were formerly performed free.

By the end of 1956, 144 chiefdoms were organised on these lines, leaving only three unorganised. Their total estimated revenue for 1956 amounted to £625,722. Their funds are spent on social services, such as small primary schools and minor medical and health measures offices and court houses. Afforestation on a small scale is being attempted, and the organisation of seed-farms and other agricultural activities is in hand. The Central Government provides guidance and supervision and assists with small financial grants, but the main activities are run by the people themselves and paid for with their own money.

Every chiefdom, whether re-organised as a Native Administration or not, constitutes a separate administrative unit. Some chiefdoms are too small to form satisfactory economic units and where this is so there is a tendency for two or more to amalgamate.

During 1949 and 1950 it was decided to form local government units of a size capable of undertaking functions which were beyond the resources of the Native Administrations. This need was particu-



larly felt in connection with local economic development. Accordingly the District Councils Ordinance (No. 17 of 1950) was enacted, under the provisions of which the District Councils, which had been established in 1946 as advisory bodies, were reconstituted as bodies corporate with executive and financial functions, and charged with responsibility for promoting the development of the districts and the welfare of their people.

The Presidents of all District Councils are appointed by the Governor in Council on the recommendation of the District Councils. Their membership comprises the paramount chief of each chiefdom in the district, one or more members elected by general adult suffrage in each chiefdom (the number of each chiefdom's representatives depends on the population) and three co-opted members, natives of or residents in the districts concerned who are chosen by the District Councils. The District Councils normally meet twice a year, business in the interim being carried out through committees the chief of which is the Finance and General Purposes Committee, which meets under an elected chairman and is responsible for the detailed control of the district development plans and expenditure under District Council annual estimates.

At the end of 1951, Mr. H. W. Davidson, then Deputy Financial Secretary, was seconded by the Governor to examine the possibilities of enlarging the responsibilities and financial resources of the District Councils. His report, submitted in August, 1952, recommended that the functions of District Councils be extended by transferring to them the responsibility either wholly, or in part, for some of the public services hitherto discharged by the Central Government. The report, which was adopted as an interim step in the development of local government in Sierra Leone, also recommended that certain items of Central Government revenue should be transferred to the district Councils to enable them to finance the transferred services.

The proposals made by Mr. Davidson were accepted by the District Councils and estimates of revenue and expenditure incorporating the new proposals were drawn up by all District Councils in 1953 and became effective from 1st January, 1954. The District Councils thus expanded from bodies responsible solely for the economic development of their districts to genuine local government authorities with direct responsibility for the maintenance and expansion of public services within their districts.

Above the District Councils is the Protectorate Assembly, presided over by the Chief Commissioner, and comprising official and unofficial members. The three Provincial Commissioners and representatives of the Agricultural, Education, Forestry, Medical and Public Works Departments are official members. The unofficial members consist of two representatives from each of the District Councils, together with six members nominated by the Governor, of whom four are Africans nominated to represent interests not

represented on District Councils, one represents commercial interests and the other, mission interests in the Protectorate.

The terms of reference of the Assembly are to advise on any matters referred to it by the Governor ; to make recommendations to the government on matters affecting the Protectorate as a whole ; to consider matters referred to it by District Councils ; and to advise on expenditure from the Protectorate Mining Benefits Trust Fund. This is a fund established by law into which monies in respect of mining rights, mining leases and water rights are paid : the proceeds are applied to the financing of schemes which would be legitimate charges on the funds of the Native Administrations, but which are beyond their present resources.

No meeting of the Assembly was held during 1956.



## Chapter 4 : Weights and Measures

REGULATIONS regarding weights and measures in Sierra Leone are laid down in the Weights and Measures Ordinance, Cap 262, as amended in minor details by later provisions. The units of weights and measures are the same as those used in the United Kingdom. Standards, verified by the Standards Department of the Board of Trade, are obtained from the United Kingdom from time to time and kept at the Treasury.

Under the provision of the Ordinance the Commissioner of Police is the *ex officio* Inspector of Weights and Measures but executive responsibility has been taken over by the Director of Commerce and Industry and a full-time Commerce and Industries Assistant (Weights and Measures) has been appointed. This officer with the assistance of Produce Inspection Staff is responsible for the verification of weights and measures and for the issue of certificates of justness throughout the whole country. Two other officers are at present undergoing courses of instruction in weights and measures in the United Kingdom.

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#### *List of Maps of Sierra Leone*

*(On Sale at Surveys and Lands Department, New England, Freetown, Sierra Leone*

*or at*

*Messrs. Edward Stanford, Limited, Long Acre, London, W.C.2)*

<i>Description</i>	<i>Scale</i>	<i>Per Sheet</i>		<i>Remarks</i>
		s.	d.	
1. Sierra Leone Atlas .		12	6	a copy
2. Map of West Africa	1 : 5,000,000	2	0	3 colours
3. Wall Map of West Africa	1 : 2,000,000	40	0	Mounted on Roller
4. Sa. Leone Administrative & Road Map (Col. Office List & D.C.S. 981) 3rd Edition 1954 . . .	1 : 1,000,000	1	6	
5. Sa. Leone Admin. & Roads . . .	„	2	6	Sunprint
6. Sa. Leone Vegetation	„	2	6	„
7. Sa. Leone Tribal .	„	2	6	„
8. Sa. Leone Geological	„	2	6	„ Provisional
9. Sa. Leone Soil .	„	2	6	„ „
10. Sa. Leone Population	„	2	6	„ „
11. Sa. Leone Agric. Products . . .	„	2	6	„ „

Description	Scale	Per Sheet		Remarks
		s.	d.	
12. Sa. Leone Roads & Mileage . . .	1 : 1,000,000 approx.	2	6	Sunprint Provisional
13. Vegetation (Soil Conserv.) . . .	" "	1	6	1951 Edition
14. Land Classification (Soil Conserv. Report) . . .	" "	1	6	"
15. Population & Fallow (Soil Conserv. Report) . . .	" "	1	6	"
16. Degraded Areas (Soil Conserv. Report) . . .	" "	1	6	"
17. Zones of Production (Soil Conserv. Report) . . .	" "	1	6	"
18. Forests Reserves (Soil Conserv. Report) . . .	" "	1	6	"
19. Sa. Leone Relief Map (G.S.G.S. No. 3921) . . .	1 : 500,000	3	0	Coloured and Contoured 1949 Edition
20. Sa. Leone Chiefdom B'dra	4th Edition 1956	2	0	
21. Sa. Leone Agricultural Production & Trade Map . . .	"	3	0	Superimposed on Map 10
22. West Africa Series 1945	1 : 250,000	1	0	The following six cover Sa. Leone : No. 22 Bonthe No. 33 Kenema No. 48 Freetown No. 49 Makump No. 64 Batkanu No. 65 Kabala
23. Vicinity of Freetown Sheets Nos. 1, 2 & 3 (G.S.G.S. 4070) 1 inch 1 mile . . .	1 : 63,360	3	6	Contoured and Colour-Sheets 1 & 3 1939 Edition  Sheets 2 1949 Edition and covers Peninsula
24. Topo Sheets : Flat U/mtd. printed form. Nos. : 3-5, 7-35, 35-36, 36A, 37-39, 41-57, 60-69, 72-86, 89-95, 97-199, 111	1 : 62,500	2	0	Sheets 1 & 108 not separately available but are combined in sheet Nos. 2 & 103)
25. Topo Sheets : Sunprint (Paper or Linen) form, Nos. : 2, 6, 24, 40, 58, 59, 70, 71, 87, 88, 96, 110		6	0	(Paper)
		10	0	(Linen)



<i>Description</i>	<i>Scale</i>	<i>Per Sheet</i>		<i>Remarks</i>
		s.	d.	
26. Topo Sheets : Folded Mounted. Nos : 16-21, 26-30, 36, 36A, 37-39		3	0	Remaining sheets not available
27. Sierra Leone Colony	1 : 10,000	3	6	Coloured & contoured Air survey, 1951 Edi- tion
28. Township Maps	„	2	6	Available for Bo, Mag- buraka, Bonthe, Kene- ma, Segbwema
29. Road Map of Free- town	1 : 6,250	3	0	1950 Edition also is an index to Freetown Cadastral sheets
30. Freetown & Vicinity Maps	„	2	6	Sunprint : 1945 Edi- tion
31. Freetown Cad. Sheets Nos. : 6, 10-14, 16-19, 23, 25, 29	1 : 1,250	2	0	1926-27 Edition
Nos. : 6, 7, 13, 14, 20, 30, 34	„	2	0	1948 Edition
Nos. : 1-5, 8, 9, 24, 31	„	5	0	(Paper) 1926-27 Edi- tion
32. Bo Cad. Sheets	1 : 1,250			
Nos. : 1, 2, 5, 6, 10-12, 16, 17, 20, 22, 25	„	3	0	1948 Edition
33. Magburaka Cad. Sheets	„	3	0	1948-49 Edition

# APPENDIX I Cases Reported to and dealt with by the Police, 1956

OFFENCES	Pending at 31.12.1955	Total Reported in 1956	Pending investi- gation at 31.12.1956	Referred to Native (or Local) Courts	Not taken to Court				Taken to Court						
					Total	Civil; no case found false in law; or	Evidence insufficient; trivial or undetected, etc.	Accused dead or insane	Total	Convicted	Dismissed	Nolle Prosequi	Awaiting trial at 31.12.1956		
<i>Against Lawful Authority</i>															
Against public order . . . . .	118	1,550	117	14	166	97	69	—	1,371	1,124	156	14	77		
Perjury . . . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Escape and Rescue . . . . .	15	76	33	3	12	1	11	—	43	35	7	1	—		
<i>Against Public Morality</i>															
Rape and indecent assault . . . . .	16	141	22	3	54	35	18	1	78	26	13	4	35		
Unnatural offences . . . . .	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Other . . . . .	7	200	14	3	29	14	15	—	161	127	20	1	13		
<i>Against the person</i>															
Murder and manslaughter . . . . .	16	58	18	1	13	4	8	1	42	12	7	3	20		
Attempted murder and suicide . . . . .	1	8	—	—	5	1	1	3	4	2	1	—	1		
Grievous harm, wounding, etc. . . . .	36	452	63	8	71	39	30	2	327	232	57	2	36		
Assaults . . . . .	48	938	85	56	367	314	53	—	478	384	77	4	13		
Other . . . . .	—	6	2	1	1	1	—	—	2	1	1	—	—		
<i>Against property</i>															
Thefts and other stealings . . . . .	803	5,333	2,100	127	1,808	654	1,154	—	2,101	1,346	407	21	327		
Robbery and extortion . . . . .	6	141	36	4	65	27	38	—	42	19	10	8	5		
Burglary, house and store breaking . . . . .	142	703	318	4	428	207	221	—	95	39	16	1	39		
False pretences, cheating, fraud, etc. . . . .	17	435	82	7	158	23	135	—	205	154	31	4	16		
Receiving stolen property . . . . .	—	45	10	2	6	1	5	—	27	19	7	1	—		
Arson . . . . .	35	276	67	1	92	22	70	—	151	67	46	5	33		
Praedial Larceny . . . . .	19	58	24	8	2	—	2	—	43	26	—	—	17		
Other . . . . .	11	913	220	5	211	167	44	—	488	313	126	3	46		
<i>Against the penal code</i>															
Forgery and coinage . . . . .	9	67	13	—	16	8	8	—	47	19	15	—	13		
Other . . . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
<i>Against Local Laws</i>															
Against Traffic Ordinance . . . . .	494	5,244	598	—	452	99	353	—	4,707	3,047	487	505	668		
" Township Ordinance . . . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
" Liquor Ordinance . . . . .	1	221	9	—	7	5	2	—	206	164	36	—	6		
Gambling . . . . .	2	212	4	—	12	8	4	—	198	175	22	—	1		
Other . . . . .	22	945	47	7	47	34	13	—	866	761	77	—	28		
TOTALS	1,818	18,023	3,882	254	4,023	1,761	12,255	7	11,682	8,092	1,619	577	1,394		







